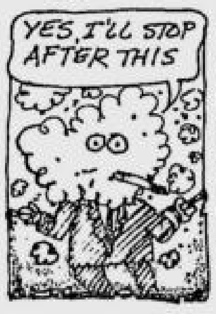
GMA: Gov't edging closer to peace talks with MILF

Story on PAGE A2

Cambodia PM tagged biggest smoker by UN


YES, I'LL STOP AFTER THIS

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen admitted Tuesday that giving up cigarettes was testing his patience after the United Nations told him that he was the biggest smoker among world

CAMBODIA/ A19

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Wednesday, July 2, 2003 ★★ ~~48~~ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 204 P15

Sports 'godfather' survives slay try

Athletics chief shot in the jaw at Rizal

By Margaux Ortiz and Marc Reyes

CONTROVERSIAL sportsman Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa), was seriously wounded yesterday in an apparent assassination attempt in Malate, Manila.

Police said Go, 59, was driving a black Mitsubishi Adventure and preparing to park outside the Patafa offices in the Rizal Memorial Complex at around 8 a.m. when an armed man opened fire at close range. The gunman was assisted by at least one lookout.

Witnesses rushed Go to the Ospital ng Maynila where he immediately underwent surgery. He has since been pronounced in stable condition, and was transferred late yesterday to St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and top sports leaders were one in condemning the attempted killing. The President, quoted on radio, ordered the Philippine National Police to conduct a swift investigation.

Go was once linked to the so-called drug queen Yu Yuk Lai, who is serving a life sentence, when he allegedly asked a state prosecutor to "go slow" on her drug trafficking case in 2000. (*See accompanying story.*)

Mercy Dalaoyan, the Patafa security guard who opened the gate

SPORTS/ A18

GO Teng Kok is wheeled out of the Ospital ng Maynila into an ambulance that took him to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. VAL HANDUMON

GO: Hounded by controversy

Who wants to stop Go?

By Christian V. Esguerra

YESTERDAY'S attempt on the life of veteran sports official Go Teng Kok has revived talk about his alleged links to convicted drug trafficker Yu Yuk Lai.

Even as President Macapagal-Arroyo and Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered an investigation into the case, police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay—the PNP's anti-drug czar—said he would look into Go's reported links to the illegal activities of his relative Yu, who is serving a life sentence.

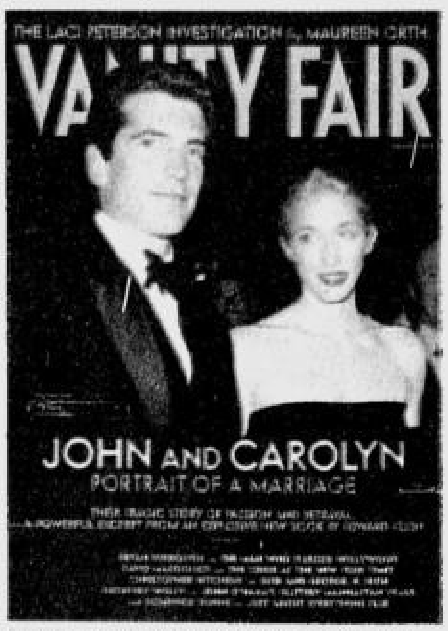
"All persons suspected of having connections with drug syndicates need to be investigated," Aglipay told reporters.

"We'll start with them and hopefully they'd lead us to the discovery of big fish," he said in Filipino.

But ex-police officer Reynaldo Jaylo, like Go a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the slay attempt had nothing to do with drugs.

Jaylo said his close friend Go was never involved in illegal drugs. He said it was possible the attempt was because of Go's other businesses, but he declined to elaborate.

WHO/ A18



JOHN and Carolyn grace the cover of the August 2003 Vanity Fair. AP/VANITY FAIR

Book bares violence, drugs in JFK Jr.'s marriage

LOS ANGELES—By the time they died in a 1999 plane crash, John F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Bessette, were living a life of drugs, separate beds and violence, according to a new book by Kennedy family biographer Edward Klein.

In "The Kennedy Curse: Why Tragedy Has Haunted America's First Family for 150 Years," Klein said that two days before he died, Kennedy, the only son of assassinated US President John F. Kennedy, told a friend that his marriage was deteriorating.

"It's got to stop. Otherwise we're headed for divorce," Kennedy told the friend in a call from the Stanhope Hotel, where Klein said he took refuge from his wife's cocaine habit and violent temper.

"I want to have kids but whenever I raise the subject with Carolyn, she turns away and refuses to have sex with me," Kennedy told the friend. He had

BOOK/ A19

Gay wedding bells ring in Ilocos town

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SINAIT, Ilocos Sur—"I felt like a true lady that night," gushed 26-year-old Shawie, after a Hawaiian-inspired wedding held at a beach resort in this coastal town on Saturday.

But Sherwin "Shawie" Balagso is a man who took another man, Erickson Vibangco, 18, for a "lifetime partner."

Officiated by a certain Pastor Daniel, the garden wedding was attended by about 300 guests.

The unusual wedding became the talk of this sleepy town. A check with the municipal civil registry, however, showed

GAY/ A17

Young officer's dream ends in New Bataan

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The young officer was hoping to send for his pregnant wife so they could start their life here as a family.

But that dream died along with Lt. Peter James Angeles, 26, commander of the 60th Infantry Battalion's Bravo Company, who was killed Monday as he was leading a team of soldiers against New People's Army guerrillas in New Bataan, Compostela Valley.

Angeles married Claudine, a promising doctor in Baguio City, only last April. He thought hard about moving here, and when he was reassigned to the 60th IB in Compostela Valley two weeks ago, he decided it was time to talk with his wife.

Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, commander of Task Force Davao, said it was he who actually suggested to Angeles, during the young officer's stint with the task force, that they settle in the city.

Pangilinan said he had advised Angeles to persuade Claudine that living here would allow them to be with each other and make the city their home.

Angeles' body was transported yesterday to Camp Panacan here, where the wake is to be held.

Twelve soldiers died with him in one of the fiercest gun battles in the country involving communist guerrillas. Three soldiers were wounded, and two militiamen and a soldier remain missing at press time.

Their identities were not immediately available, according to Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's civil relations office in Southern Mindanao.

Adriatico said soldiers were

YOUNG/ A17

NPAs face 'optimum' gov't counterattacks

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio
in Manila
Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered "optimum" military, political and diplomatic counterattacks to the new spate of attacks by the New People's Army that led to the death of scores of government troops in Eastern Samar and Compostela Valley.

She said the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front must be held accountable for the "terrorist acts of the NPA," and hinted that the government might reconsider the

NPAs /A17

2 Marcos mansions lie in ruins, gathering moss

PARAÑAQUE mansion still stands despite massive looting and neglect.

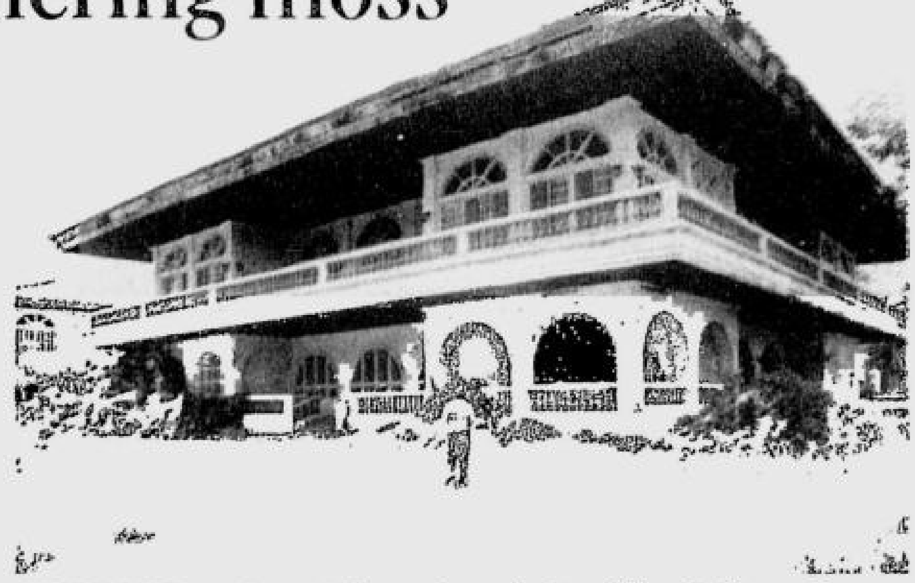
By Tony Bergonia

AT FIRST sight, it is obvious that the two-story mansion in the Arias Compound in Parañaque City was intended to be grandiose.

The mansion, as of a caretaker's count, has at least nine rooms, a pea-shaped swimming pool at the back, a hall on the ground floor that can hold at least 100 people at a time. Outside, a smaller pool littered with candy wrappers—"a kiddie pool," according to another caretaker—is gathering moss.

The floors are made of narra panels each about two feet in width. A narra staircase wide enough for four people walking abreast connects the first and

2 MARCOS/ A18



CANLUBANG house sits on a 24-hectare lot perched on a hill overlooking a golf course.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/02/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

GMA: Gov't edging closer to peace talks

PIKIT, North Cotabato—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the government was moving toward resuming peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front but stressed that troops would remain on alert for terrorist attacks.

Visiting the residents of a war-torn village here, the President appealed to the villagers to cooperate with the fight against terrorism, noting that the country was cooperating with neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia in boosting their capabilities against terror groups, particularly the Southeast Asia-based Jemaah Islamiah.

"We are strengthening legal and operational procedures to deal with terrorists as well as drug syndicates," Ms Macapagal told her audience of Cabinet officials and residents of Barangay Kabasalan.

"We are now moving in a calibrated way toward peace talks" with the MILF, said Ms Macapagal.

"We will continue to stabilize the situation on the ground, return the evacuees home and move toward substantive negotiations" but "enforcement of the law in all places shall be undiminished," she said.

The Peace talks have been stalled since the military launched a massive assault early this year against the MILF, which the President has blamed for harboring terrorists responsible for a spate of attacks in Mindanao.

But in a rare move early this month, the reclusive MILF chief, Salamat Hashim, categorically denounced terrorism and links with the Jemaah Islamiah, fulfilling one of the conditions set by the President to set the stage for a resumption of talks.

Low-level informal negotiations were launched in Malaysia last week, in which both sides agreed to work toward establishing the parameters for the talks expected to resume this month.

Lift warrants

On Monday, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople announced that Salamat would serve as one of five rebel negotiators once a date for the talks is set.

He said the justice department would also back a move by the MILF legal panel to have warrants of arrests against Salamat and other top rebel leaders lifted so the talks could start.

Salamat's seat

But yesterday MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied yet again that Salamat would be sitting as one of the negotiators, and accused the government of "preempting" the rebels with its announcement.

He insisted that the MILF's central committee had not yet decided the issue which he said was "an internal matter."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the JI, believed to be the regional arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network, is still the leading terror threat not only in the Philippines but also in other Southeast Asian countries.

Reyes said the MILF has been proved to have links with the JI and that this would be a big consideration before the government finally agrees to go back to the negotiating table.

Barangay Kabasalan was one of many Pikit villages that became the scene of military operations in February.

Yesterday, the President distributed certificates of house ownership to the residents. The Department of Social Welfare and Development has built 80 houses for the homeless. At least 50 more houses, costing P25,000 each, are to be built.

Other projects

The project will be implemented in other villages here like Buliok and Bulol.

Four villages also received P140,000 worth of livelihood projects.

The President assured the evacuees from Pikit and Pagalungan in Maguindanao province who had staged a rally to ask the government to fast-track the peace talks that the government was moving in that direction.

Kabalu meanwhile said the MILF would be filing a protest against the military before the United Nations Commissioner on Human Rights for the alleged attack on a mosque in Barangay Sabaken, Kabuntalan, Maguindanao.

He said the alleged attack was an act of religious persecution. *Reports from Jeffrey M. Tupas, Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau, TJ Burgonio, Metro Manila, and AFP*

Monkayo mayor killed for P1M, suspect's wife claims

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The assassination of Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley was a P1-million deal, according to Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Matillano said a former policeman and a rebel returnee allegedly finalized the deal with Aniceto Dejito Sr., the alleged gunman, two weeks before Brillantes was shot and killed.

Matillano, who went to the Brillantes' wake here, said Dejito's wife, who revealed the alleged transaction to authorities, also told investigators her husband was given P3,000 as advance payment the day before the killing.

Delia Dejito told investigators she had tried to convince her husband to get out of the deal.

Dejito's 15-year-old son told Radio dxDC here that his parents had a fight before his father left their house on Saturday afternoon.

The suspect's son said his father would not listen and instead gave his mother P1,000.

"He was unmoved," Matillano said, quoting the son.

On Saturday afternoon, the 33-year-old Dejito, a former New People's Army rebel who had surrendered in 1986, set off with several companions on board a white van.

In a television interview, Delia said a former Monkayo policeman was driving the van.

She identified the driver as Tiwi Cajes, reportedly a bodyguard of a big-time miner in the gold-rich area of Mt. Diwata in Monkayo.

Delia said she was informed the next day that her husband had shot Brillantes and had been killed in turn.

Earlier, police had said Brillantes' security escorts had killed the suspected assassin but later said Dejito's killers remained unidentified.

Matillano, who said Brillantes was killed in order to silence him, disclosed that the CIDG was pursuing some good leads.

"But we cannot reveal them yet," he said.

Matillano said that while a personal grudge was being considered, authorities believed Brillantes' death may have had something to do with the controversy surrounding the Mt. Diwata gold-rush area.

Nene Brillantes, the slain mayor's wife agreed, adding that the family has come up with a list of possible suspects.

The slain mayor had ordered the closure of tunnels and processing plants that were said to be causing environmental degradation.

Miners opposed to the closure order accused Brillantes of trying to control the riches of Diwata, also known as Diwalwal.

Brillantes, a former soldier, built a fortune as a pioneering miner on Mt. Diwata in the early '80s.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered investigators to unmask all the mastermind in the killing of Brillantes.

"I only wish he had been vigilant over his personal security," said the President, who was in Davao to preside over a meeting of the country's mayors.

The President directed the military to work with government organizations and the police to impose order in Diwalwal. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

EN BANC

IN THE MATTER OF THE FAILURE OF REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 60 OF THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE
X- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -X

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S.,	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Jr., Florentino	Commissioner

Promulgated: 25 June 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6220

WHEREAS, there are political parties, including coalitions of political parties, currently registered with the Commission, with national, regional and local constituencies;

WHEREAS, many of these political parties have been unheard of or are otherwise dormant for years since their registration with the Commission;

WHEREAS, such state of dormancy or inactivity defeats the very purpose of their existence, which is to involve themselves actively in the affairs of government in order to pursue their ideology, political ideas or platforms of government;

WHEREAS, the present numbers of political parties and coalitions of political parties has given rise to administrative problems and unnecessary expenses for the Commission in the accreditation of watchers and their accommodations all phases of the political exercise;

WHEREAS, Section 60 of the Omnibus Election Code mandates that:

> "x x x x x
> Any registered political party that, singly or in coalition with others, fails to obtain at least ten percent of the votes cast in the constituency in which it nominated and supported a candidate or candidates in the election next following its registration shall, after notice and hearing, be deemed to have forfeited such status as a registered political party in such constituency."

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers granted by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws the Commission promulgates this resolution.

SECTION 1. Requirement for political parties to report its participation in the elections. - Every political party, or coalition of political parties registered as of April 14, 1995 is hereby required to inform the Commission, in writing, within ten (10) days from notice, as to wether or not it had fielded candidates and obtained at least ten percent (10%) of the votes cast in the constituency for which it was registered during May 1995, May 1998 and May 14, 2001 elections. Said written information should be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, Intramuros, Manila.

Format of the written information is hereto attached as Annex "A".

SEC. 2. Effect of failure to comply. - Failure to comply with the preceding requirement despite due notice shall constitute prima facie evidence of dormancy or inactivity of the political party concerned, and shall be a cause for the cancellation of its registration.

SEC. 3. Notice and hearing of cancellation. - Upon confirmation or proof of the failure of political parties to field candidates and to obtain ten percent of the votes cast in the constituency during the May 8, 1995, May 11, 1998 and May 14, 2001 elections, the same shall be set for hearing by the Commission en banc, wherein the political party concerned shall be given the opportunity to show cause why its registration should not be cancelled on the basis of such proof or confirmation. Thereafter, the Commission shall decide the matter.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. - This resolution takes effect immediately.

SEC. 5. Dissemination. - The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication hereof in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

The Clerk of the Commission shall furnish copies of this Resolution to the political parties/coalition of political parties.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
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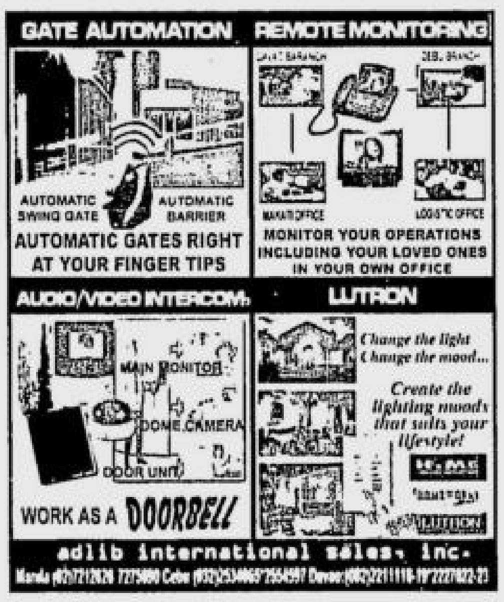
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2 Pinays hurt in Israel blast that killed 5-yr-old

THE TEL Aviv gas explosion which killed five people, including a 5-year-old Filipino girl, also wounded two other Filipinas, reports reaching the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday said.

The 5-year-old was identified as Jesse Mae Gatmaitan.

Her mother, Jean Busadre, and grandmother, Cecilia Gatmaitan, were also injured in the blast, acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson said.

The two women have been discharged from the hospital after treatment, Imson added.

According to a report from the labor attache in Tel Aviv, Busadre was a domestic helper, one of the estimated 50,000 Filipinos working in Israel.

The explosion, triggered by a gas leak brought a two-story building crashing down Monday morning in Tel Aviv, killing at least five people, injuring three and trapping others in the ruins, rescue workers said.

Hours later, the seaside city was rocked by a second blast, described by police as an assassination attempt against an underworld kingpin.

Aside from Gatmaitan, those killed in the collapsed building included two Israeli women and a Nigerian man and woman, said Tel Aviv police spokesperson Shlomit Hertzberg.

"We know of at least three more people who are still trapped under the debris," said Gidon Baron, an Israeli Army reserve colonel, who was commanding rescue efforts there. He said there was a good chance of finding survivors.

One of the victims was a woman in her ninth month of pregnancy. Rescue workers tried to save the baby, but couldn't dislodge the mother's body from under a large slab of concrete, said rescue services spokesperson Moshe Mosco. *AP; Martin Marfil*

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Senate seeks accounting of drugs in cops' hands

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday sought a nationwide inventory of prohibited substances still being kept by law enforcement agencies.

This was contained in the two-page Resolution No. 634 which Drilon filed calling for a formal inquiry into reports that confiscated drugs were being resold in the streets.

The resolution directed the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers to ascertain the disposition of the seized prohibited substances as provided for under Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Drilon said Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency had blamed its failure to dispose of seized drugs in the manner prescribed by law on "objections raised by lawyers or those charged in court."

He said the PDEA, the lead agency in the government's battle against the drug menace, should submit to the Senate a comprehensive report on the exact total of illegal drugs that it had seized, and how much of it had been burned, as the law specifies.

RA 9165, which he co-authored, provides enough safeguards to keep seized drugs off the streets, Drilon pointed out. He said the "simple" legal process required authorities to incinerate confiscated drugs within 24 hours after extracting a "small portion" for use as evidence in court.

"If no cases have been filed in court, there is also a procedure to be followed," he said.

Drilon said Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane had a lot of explaining to do for the failure of police anti-narcotics officials to properly dispose of seized drugs. He said Ebdane would be formally summoned to the Senate later this month to explain.

According to records obtained from Camp Crame, Drilon said, the last time seized drugs were incinerated was eight months ago.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya recalled PDEA's report that since July last year, it had seized a total of P4.6 billion worth of illegal drugs, chemicals and other equipment used in the manufacture of illegal drugs. However, Pamalakaya said in a statement, PDEA had not declared what it had done with these drugs.

Earlier, Drilon and Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Loren Legarda shot down the proposal to mix confiscated shabu with poison in order to stop the reported recycling.

It was a "foolish idea," Biazon said, mincing no words. "Whoever proposed it should have his or her head examined."

During a press conference, Biazon said the suggestion of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) should not be heeded by the government. He explained: "Lacing shabu with poison, definitely, is (tantamount to) committing murder."

The country was not lacking in laws and agencies to combat the drug menace, the senator said. "The best step is to cleanse the ranks of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary."

Legarda said the proposed measure could backfire. "What if they find their way back to the market after being poisoned? Many will surely die."

$1B in fake US federal notes seized at Naia

By Jerome Aning,
and Arlyn de la Cruz, *Contributor*

A FRENCHMAN who allegedly tried to smuggle more than a billion dollars worth of fake United States Federal Reserve notes out of the country was arrested by aviation security personnel at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City yesterday morning.

Macaria Lorejas, X-ray machine operator at Naia's East Initial Security Checkpoint, noticed on her monitor what she immediately suspected to be fake federal reserve notes contained in a plastic envelope inside the travelling bag of London-bound Pierre Benoit Eynaud.

SPO2 Alfredo Buscano, duty area supervisor, led a manual inspection of Eynaud's bags. The search yielded the fake US Federal Reserve notes totaling $1.017 billion, plus several gold-colored coins and microfilms.

There were also bank certificates in the millions and trillions of dollars.

Eynaud, who was turned over to the Bureau of Customs for the filing of appropriate charges, said he was to "transfer" the notes in Zurich, Switzerland.

In a report submitted to Customs District Collector Cesar Templo, Naia District Commander Lt. Col. Esmeralda Saplala said Eynaud's bags were being held for "further investigation.

During the investigation, Eynaud volunteered that the notes had been kept at the Roosevelt Branch of East West Bank in Quezon City. The safekeeping arrangements were made by one James Nesbitt, president of Global Essential Services Group Inc., Eynaud said.

Questioned by Naia Customs police, Elmer Paeldon, branch manager of the bank, said he "personally knew" the French national.

Asked if it was standard procedure for the bank to accept luggage for safekeeping, Paeldon said it was done as "a personal favor for Eynaud." But he denied knowledge of the bags' contents.

Danding's son backs candidacy

DIGOS CITY—His father may have chosen to remain silent on the issue but Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco has virtually endorsed Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco's candidacy for president next year.

The younger Cojuangco said his father could greatly help the country considering how he helped turn San Miguel Corp., which he now heads as chairman, from a relatively "medium" company into a conglomerate worth an estimated P150 billion. He said his father had invested P2 billion in the company.

"Many say my dad became rich because of his ties with Marcos but I remember when I was young, my father sold almost all our properties to raise his capital," he said.

In a speech at the 36th Araw ng Davao del Sur yesterday, the congressman said that if his father had won the presidency in 1992, the country would be in a much better economic situation today. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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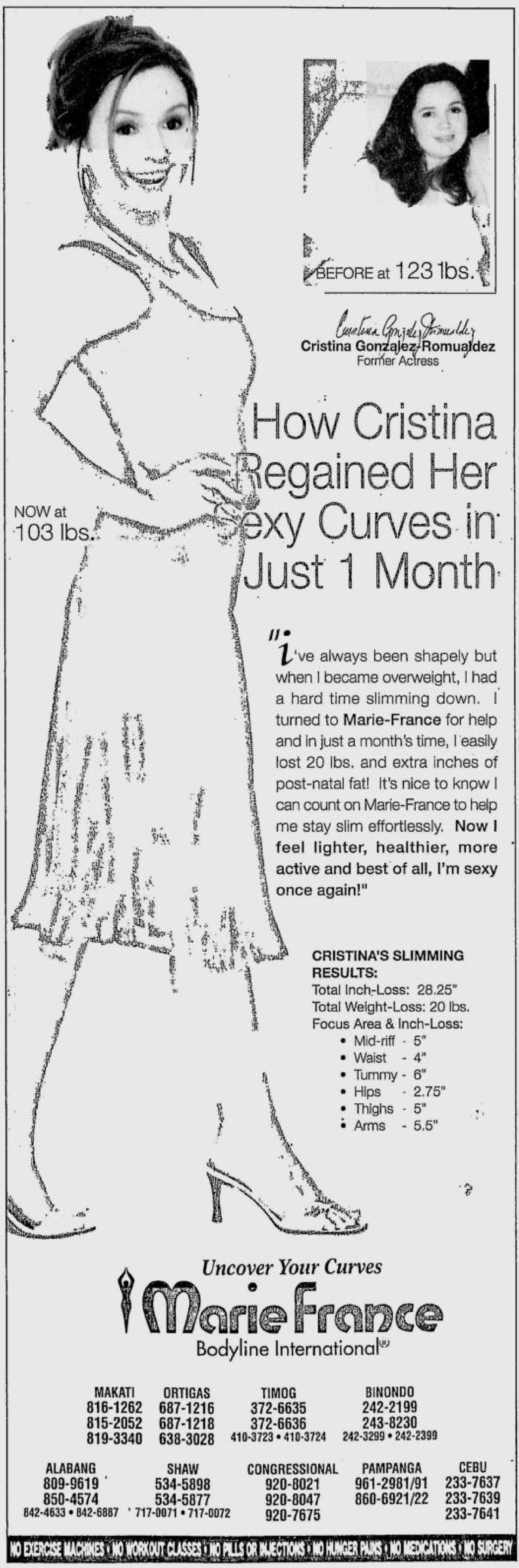

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Pangilinan seen to replace Loren as Senate majority leader

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. FRANCIS Pangilinan may be the next Senate majority leader, after Sen. Loren Legarda had declared she wanted to give up the post, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier said yesterday.

At a news briefing, Flavier said he knew that Pangilinan's name had been mentioned in connection with the majority leadership.

He also said Legarda had asked as early as three months ago to be allowed to give up the majority leadership in exchange for a committee chairmanship, preferably of education.

Pangilinan is concurrently chair of the committees on justice and human rights, ethics and privileges, urban planning, housing and resettlement, as well as of the Judiciary Bar Council. He was designated acting chair of the education committee after its chair, the late Sen. Renato Cayetano, left for the United States last year for medical treatment.

Flavier said he was told Pangilinan was open to being majority leader, adding the latter had "raised his interest in retaining the (Senate committee on justice)" until Congress approved the bill increasing salaries in the judiciary."

Flavier said the bill was now with the bicameral conference committee.

"So (Pangilinan's retention of the justice committee) would be time-bound," Flavier told reporters. "As soon as the bicameral conference committee is over then he can give it up, if he is indeed interested in the majority floor leadership."

Under the rules, the majority leader chairs only one panel, the Committee on Rules.

Pangilinan, on the other hand, refused to comment on Flavier's statements.

"The matter should be threshed out among members of the Senate majority," Pangilinan said in a text message.

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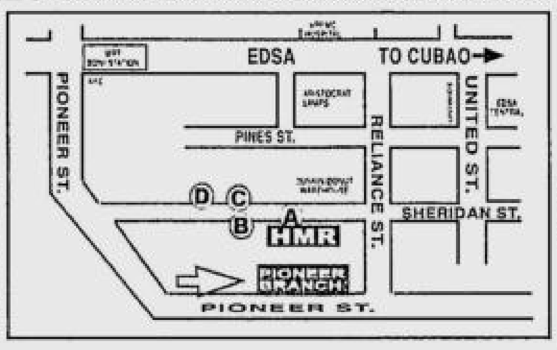

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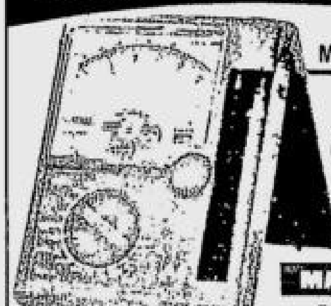

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Wanted: Healthy blood

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health and the Philippine National Red Cross yesterday called on more Filipinos to improve their lifestyles in order to be eligible to donate blood.

PNRC blood service head Cecilia Francisco said 16 to 44 percent of voluntary blood donations were deferred or rejected due to lifestyle ailments like hypertension and heart disease.

"That's why our cry is for people to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We need many more voluntary blood donors," Francisco said in a press briefing yesterday.

The DOH launched Blood Donors Month at Robinsons Place in Manila yesterday, with presidential daughter Luli Arroyo leading the pool of blood donors. It was the first time Arroyo donated blood.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the country has failed to meet the 800,000 units of blood, or blood for one percent of the population, required by international standards as supply.

Only around 500,000 units are available annually because only some 200,000 people donate blood, 65 percent of which is replacement blood, according to the PNRC.

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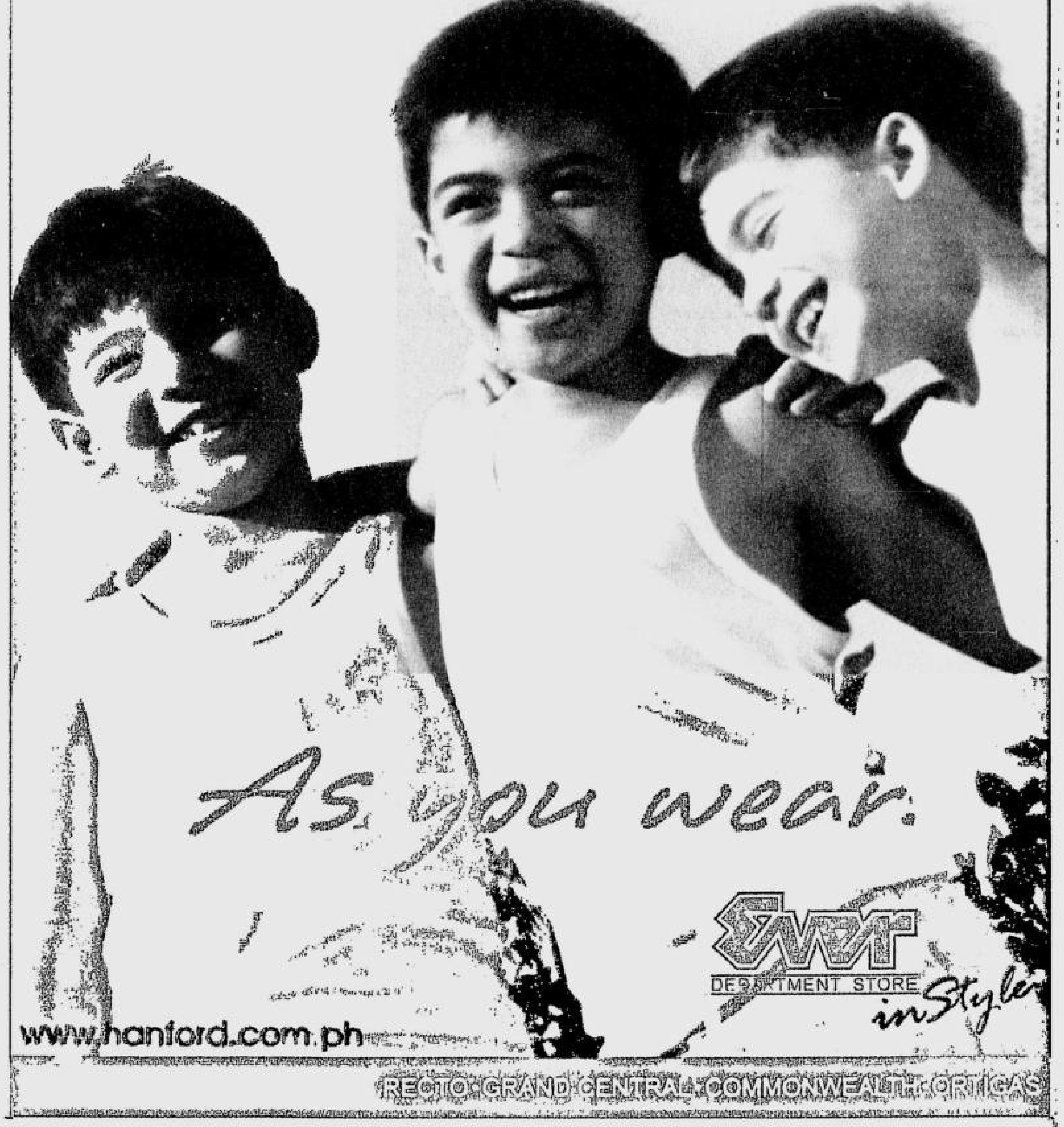

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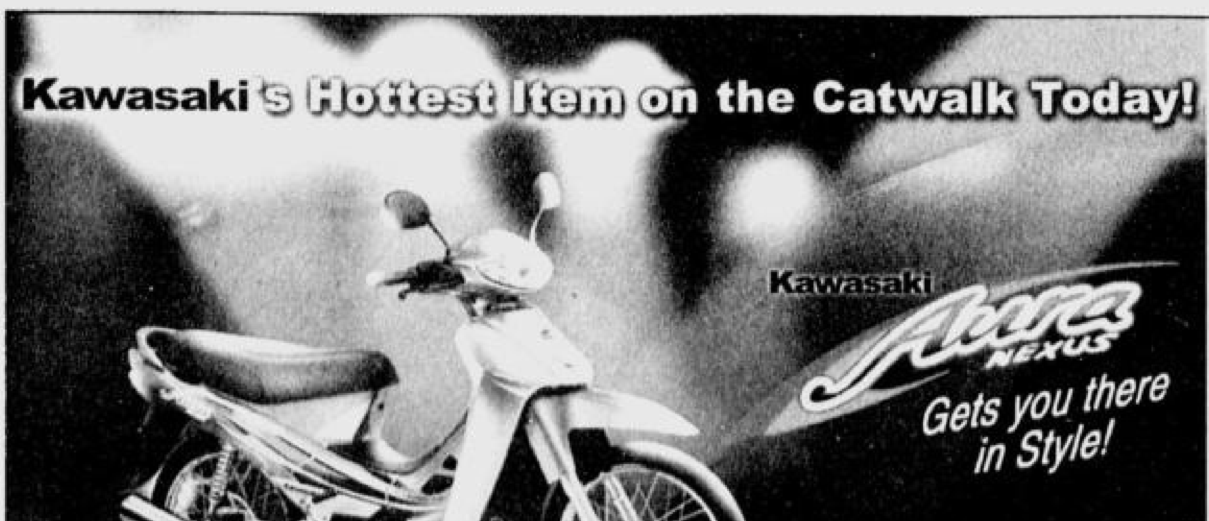

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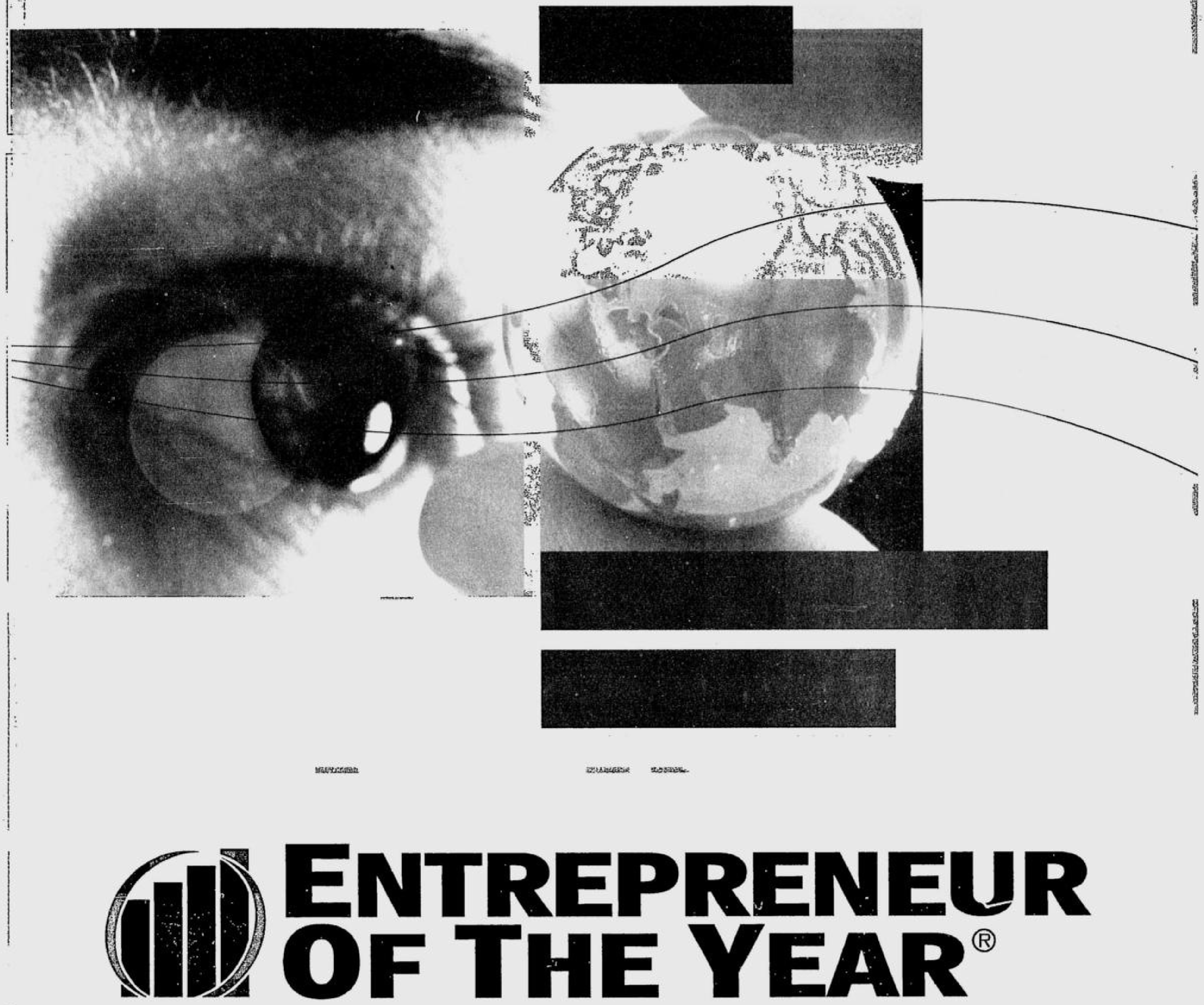

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‘All these laws and no money to fund them’

By Cynthia D. Balana

A TOTAL of 163 laws passed by Congress have not been implemented for lack of funds, according to an initial assessment by the House oversight committee.

This is because some P402.9 billion is needed to implement the 163 laws, said committee chair Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda.

But this figure could still go higher because some of the agencies concerned had not yet submitted their budget estimates for 69 of the laws to be implemented.

The review was conducted after Zambales Rep. Ruben Torres filed House Resolution No. 71 calling on all government agencies, including government-owned and controlled corporations, to carry out an inventory of all laws they were responsible for implementing.

Torres said this would enable Congress to re-assess these laws and repeal and amend some of them, if necessary, to make them conform to present government policy.

Laws passed by Congress are aimed at preserving democratic principles and institutions, maintaining peace and order, advancing the economy and improving the lives of Filipinos through prompt and speedy delivery of basic services, Torres said.

But because they have not been implemented, these laws have failed to achieve the purposes for which they were passed, he said.

About 91, or 55 percent of the 163 laws are of local government concern while 72, or 45 percent, are of national concern.

The health sector accounted for the highest percentage (23 percent or 38 laws) of unfunded laws. They mainly involve laws seeking to increase the number of beds in local state-run hospitals.

The public works sector was next with 26 unfunded laws, mostly calling for the upgrading of district offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

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Señeres keeps NLRC chair

By Martin P. Marfil

ROY Señeres will stay as chair of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) until the sexual harassment case against his predecessor is resolved.

This was the stand of Secretary Manuel Imson, acting chief of the Department of Labor and Employment, who also disclosed plans to appeal before the Supreme Court the Court of Appeals decision that former NLRC chief Rogelio Rayala was citing in an attempt to return to the post.

On Nov. 18, 1998, Rayala was accused of sexual harassment by an employee. Malacañang dismissed him on May 8, 2000. He brought his case before the Court of Appeals, which ruled on Oct. 18, 2002 that his penalty should be reduced to a one-year suspension.

This decision prompted Rayala to reassert his chairmanship: because he was merely suspended, his post could not have been declared vacant.

In the past few days, Rayala has been showing up at the NLRC offices, “visiting” employees. On Monday morning, he attended the flag ceremony.

Imson said the Office of the Solicitor General was expected to file the appeal today. “Our information is that Rayala has also filed a petition for certiorari. That alone would make the CA decision not final and executory,” he added.

Yesterday, the labor department assured the public that the situation has not distracted NLRC employees from their work. NLRC officials reportedly assured Imson that things were “normal and moving smoothly.”

SWS no “polling firm”

IN THE story “GMA rating up again” (INQUIRER, 6/27/02, Page A1), the Social Weather Stations was described as “a polling firm.”

It should have been described as “a non-stock, non-profit research organization.” The INQUIRER regrets the error.

Mahar Mangahas, president of SWS, said it is not a commercial company or profit-oriented business but is operated exclusively for scientific purposes. He said SWS is accredited with the Philippine Council for NGO Certification and registered with the Bureau of Internal Revenue as a donee institution.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

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Gospel: Mt 8:28-34

When Jesus reached Gadara on the other side, he was met by two demoniacs who came out from the tombs. They were so fierce that no one dared to pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, “What do you want with us, you, Son of God? Have you come to torture us before the time?”

At some distance away there was a large herd of pigs feeding. So the demons begged him, “If you drive us out, send us into that herd of pigs.”

Jesus ordered them, “Go.” So they left and went into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

The men in charge of them ran off to the town, where they told the whole story, also what had happened to the men possessed with the demons. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their area.

Commentary

The pigs were a great source of nourishment and income to the pagan population that lived across the Lake of Galilee from Israel. The large herd that plunged itself into the waters was a huge loss to them. And that loss was all they saw. They did not appreciate that two of their own people had been restored to health and were ready to be restored to their community. They preferred a lucrative resource to two of their own! And fearing to lose more pigs, they prevented Jesus' advance into their territory. How many more healings would have Jesus worked among them? Shall we continue to sacrifice human persons for gain? Shall we give Jesus a chance to effect healing in our societies?

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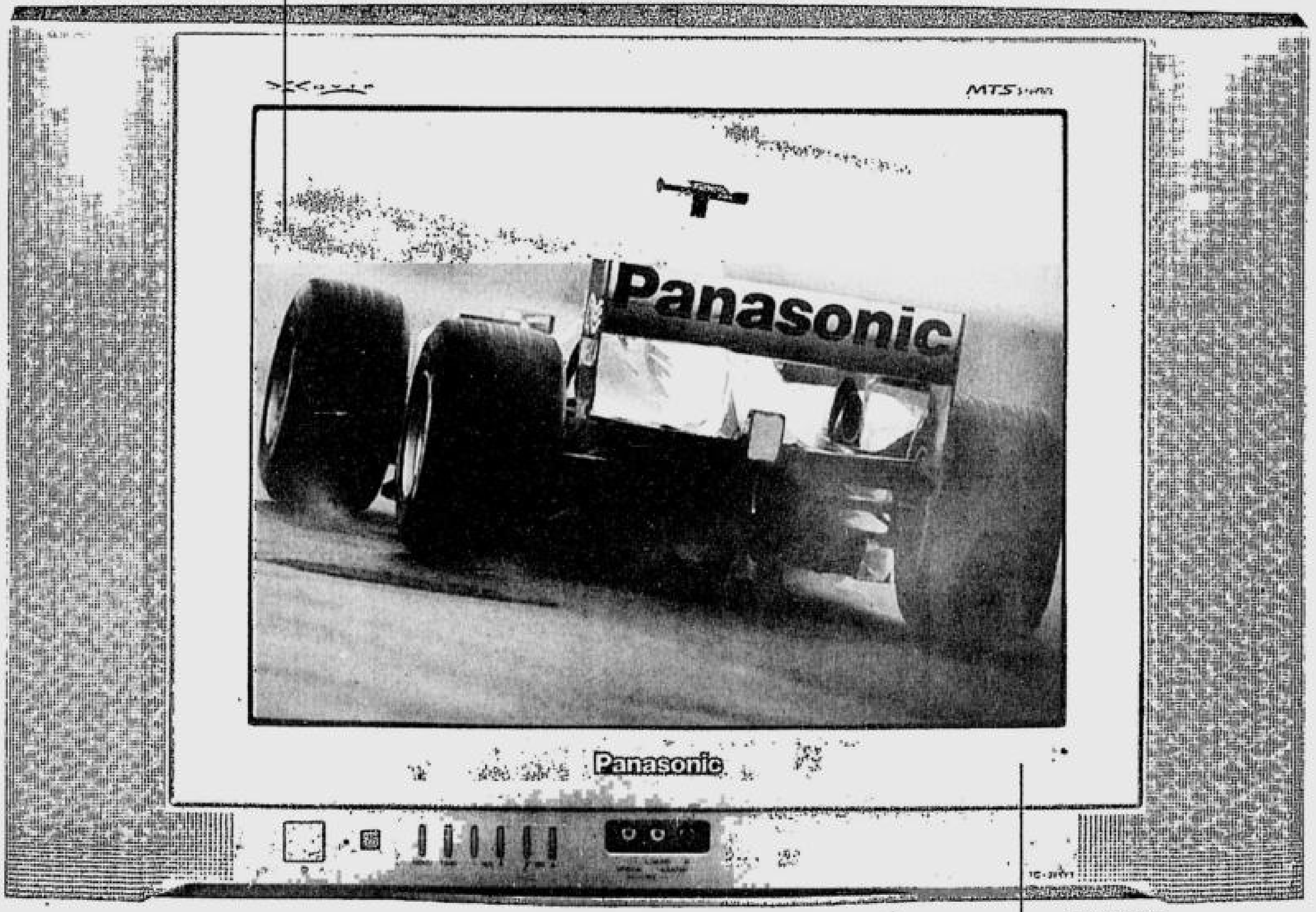

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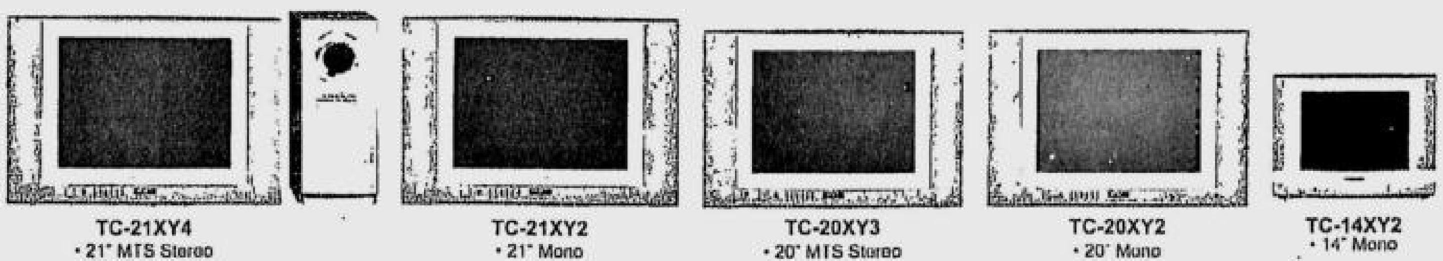
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Right direction

EDITORIAL

PERHAPS now the administration can begin its "big push" against illegal drugs. After clearing up the confusion (of its own creation) over who should lead the fresh campaign against drug trafficking, it appears to have recovered its bearings and has set out in the right direction.

For weeks the campaign was bogged down in debates over who should lead the campaign, starting when President Macapagal-Arroyo designated Sen. Robert Barbers as the "anti-drug" czar. That was not to be since Barbers would have had to give up his Senate seat to accept his new assignment. Aware of the conflict of functions, Barbers initially said he was willing to resign to lead the anti-drug drive but he quickly changed his mind. However, he proceeded to recruit former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and two other retired police officers. Ms Macapagal welcomed the move, only to drop it when it met with strong objections from her own drug enforcement officials as well as others who were not impressed by Lim's extra-legal methods.

The controversy over such ill-advised designations and unconventional or even illegal methods was finally cleared up at a command conference held over the weekend to which Barbers and Lim were not invited. And as if the signal was not clear enough, Malacañang affirmed that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) would be the lead agency in carrying out the anti-illegal drugs campaign. Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the President believed the campaign was already in the hands of "very capable officials," referring to PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who is concurrent chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, and Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay, who heads the anti-narcotics task force of the Philippine National Police.

The President herself declared Monday that the PDEA would be calling the shots. "It will enforce our disciplinary policies strictly and evenly," she said. That meant Lim was out and so with his spray paint and the special unit being planned, patterned after the "Untouchables" which took on Al Capone and other crime bosses in the United States.

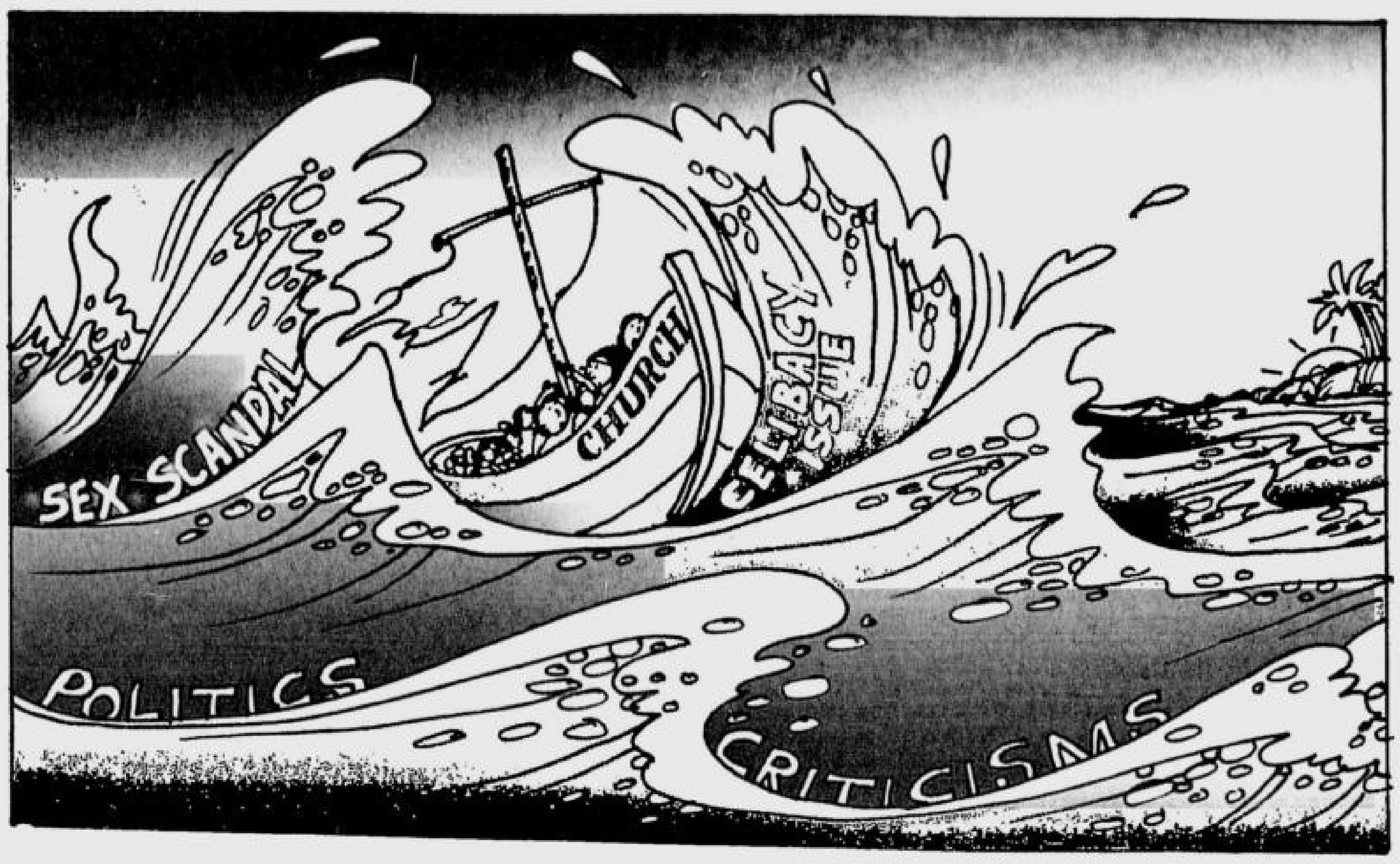
Which is how things should be since that is what the law says. The PDEA is the sole agency charged with going after drug lords and drug traffickers. If they cannot do their jobs, its officials should be replaced instead of creating a superbody or appointing an anti-illegal drugs "czar" to look over their shoulders or do their functions.

After cleaning up the mess, the administration seems to have seen its way clear to identifying where the campaign should begin. The President has directed the PNP and the PDEA to start right in their own turf. She said police stations and other PNP offices, especially their anti-narcotics units, have been "tainted" by illegal drugs. "The two most notorious practices are turning arrested drug pushers and traffickers into milking cows and reselling seized drugs," she added. In other words, extending protection to drug traffickers and dealing drugs.

She was merely confirming what everyone who knows anything about the drug trade has been saying: the trade would not flourish without official protection. Barbers, who heads the Senate committee on illegal drugs, actually lays the blame for the horrendous rise in drug trafficking and abuse squarely on the shoulders of the police. Many police officers have become either protectors of drug dealers, drug users or drug pushers themselves, he said.

Obviously no anti-drug campaign will be able to take off unless the law enforcement agencies clean up their own ranks first. This problem has become so bad that even amid all this talk about a renewed anti-drug campaign, some law-enforcement agents have carried on as if they were untouchable. INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo has related his recent experience with a Chinese national who sought his help in securing the release of a niece who had been arrested by PDEA agents. It appeared that the family had paid P500,000 for her freedom to one of her captors, a sergeant working for the PDEA. The twist in this case is that the policeman failed to deliver, probably in anticipation of a bigger payoff. With agents such as this extortionist, how can the government carry out a serious campaign against drug dealers and their multibillion-peso trade?

Avenido and Aglipay know where they must begin. If they cannot clean up the ranks, the campaign is already lost.



Traffic control by mayors is double-edged

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE CLAMOR by Metro Manila mayors to manage traffic in their respective jurisdiction is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, traffic as managed by the Metro Manila Development Authority is very bad—although admittedly there have been some very good results, as in the easing of traffic around the Quezon Memorial Circle because of the removal of the center islands. But the gridlock on Edsa and other streets is still daunting, in spite of what the MMDA planners are doing and in spite of the elevated Metro Rail Transit which was intended to lighten the traffic below it.

There are just not enough MMDA traffic enforcers. Worse, those who are available don't know traffic rules, being former street sweepers. Even worse, some of them have learned to extort "*tong*" faster than learning the traffic rules.

Besides this, all they know is to stand in the middle of the street and wave on vehicles, just to be seen doing something, when the vehicles are already going as fast as the traffic will allow. Often, you see them lined up on the street waving, waving, waving, while nobody attends to the traffic jam at the nearby street corner. Or they stand there waving but paying no attention to the commuters waiting for rides in the middle of the street and blocking traffic. Not even sense enough to tell them to move back to the sidewalk or point them to the proper waiting area.

One mystery: Where do they all disappear to after the rush hour and there are no more roving supervisors? To discipline drivers and commuters and teach them good habits, law enforcement must not be an on-and-off affair. When the enforcers are away, the mice revert back to their old bad ways.

This happens because the superiors rarely see their enforcers at work. Most of the time, they are in their air-conditioned offices. Why go out in the hot sun and inhale all the dust and toxic fumes spewed by vehicles when it is much more pleasant to stay in the cool office and shuffle papers?

Presumably, the mayors would be able to hire more warm bodies (after all, how many protégés and political followers are waiting for jobs) and watch them more closely. Also, they would be forced to see to it that traffic moves more smoothly in their jurisdictions or their constituents would grumble. This is one advantage of this arrangement: It would be easy to pinpoint responsibility. The mayor is right there to complain to, instead of somewhere in a distant office. And if he can't improve traffic, you can always vote for his opponent in next year's elections.

The fact alone that jeepney drivers are opposing the idea is an indication that they're afraid traffic rules would be enforced more strictly, that they are contented with the present arrangement. Whatever *modus vivendi* they have made with the MMDA enforcers, they would have to do all over again with the mayors' traffic enforcers.

But returning traffic control to mayors is subject to abuse. We've been there before. As one drivers' association said, "it's the revenue from ticketing that mayors are after."

There's no better proof of that than the abuses by private towing firms accredited by the government and by the pollution emission testing teams fielded by the local governments themselves. Profit, not faster traffic and cleaner air, is the motive behind these groups. They victimize motorists to get their money.

Example: Edsa is a national road; it is not a city road. But anti-pollution teams from Makati stop vehicles there, attach their gadgets to the tailpipes, declare that the vehicle is polluting the air, and demand the driver to pay P2,000. Can municipal employees do that on national roads? Imagine what will happen if full control of all streets are handed over to the mayors. Extortion by the protégés of the mayor will be rampant.

Besides, as past experience has shown, traffic always piles up at the boundaries of cities and municipalities where the enforcers usually leave traffic enforcement to the other side. Also in the past, traffic rules of different LGUs contradict one another, leading to confusion. That was why traffic management for main roads was transferred to he MMDA in the first place.

On the other hand, if only traffic rules are enforced strictly at all times, both for drivers and pedestrians, traffic would be much better. And if all those who violate the rules are fined, with the money going to the government and not to the pockets of traffic cops, the government would have so much money it would be able to balance the budget and pay the national debt in due time.

The trouble is that traffic rules are not enforced and most of those who violate them, especially public utility drivers, are not fined.

Result: The present traffic mess and the present poverty-stricken government.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Joke about priests and celibacy are the present flavor of the month.

Two priests are in a private conversation.

1st priest: Do you think the Vatican will lift the celibacy rule for priests?

2nd priest: Not during our lifetime. Maybe by the time our children are grown up.

Solutions

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

I'M not entirely surprised Sen. Guy Glodis is a Democrat. That party's ranks are now filled with people like him. Glodis is the guy who will go down in history—emphasis on down—as the American legislator who suggested that maybe it was time to do to the Iraqis today what Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing did to the Moros some 100 years ago.

Pershing, he said, had terrorists executed with bullets dipped in pig's blood and their corpses buried with pig's blood and entrails. That was so because the Moros believed that being contaminated with the blood of pigs prevented one from entering heaven. Maybe, Glodis suggested, they should do the same thing in Iraq. That should help prevent suicide bombers.

He forgot to explain what is left of suicide bombers to set awash in pig's blood. Muslims of course dismiss the notion. Allah, they say, no more and no less than Jehovah, takes people into his bosom for the quality of their lives and not for the condition of their deaths.

What Glodis' statements in fact merely show is the quality of mind of those ardently supporting George W. Bush in his quest to foist a new Pax—or Bellum—Americana upon the world. No one can beat them for sheer atavism, or primitivism, a remarkable attribute given that their project is to bring the light of freedom and democracy to the world—what used to be called the White Man's Burden or Manifest Destiny in Pershing's days.

What Glodis' proposal reminded me of was the days of the Inquisition when assassins advertised their wares as so many florins for a simple murder and a gradation of fees for more sophisticated ones. Sophisticated ones were murders wrought while the victim was in a state sufficiently indicative of mortal sin. I do not now recall the gradations. I think one of the more expensive ones was the murder of a married man while in the act of copulating with a married woman. That broke several Church laws and guaranteed the victim would go straight to hell. Those who paid for the murder seemed anxious not to meet their victims in the next life, little imagining that by the same Church laws what they were doing assured it.

It is good that Glodis mentions Pershing because it reveals the monumental divide in perception between the conqueror and the conquered. A hundred years ago, Pershing too was a hero in American eyes, one who helped pacify an ugly and benighted race that had the temerity to refuse to surrender despite overwhelming odds. For the residents of Sulu, on the other hand, he was the fellow responsible for the massacre of men, women and children in his effort to pacify them, a people that had been pacific before he came. The worst massacres happened at Bud Dajo in March 1906, and Bud Bagsak in June 1913, the latter claiming 2,000 Moros, many of them women and children. They included mutilation and various atrocities of the kind Glodis now enthusiastically applauds.

The question, of course, which neither Glodis nor George W. Bush asks is what in God's—or Allah's—name Pershing was doing in Sulu in the first place. The assumption about the righteousness of the cause having made, the question is reduced to a technical one. A how-to one: How to beat the crap out of *insurectos*, a.k.a. terrorists. That was the question the US military applied itself to a hundred years ago, when it made the Colt .45 the standard sidearm for troops assigned to the Philippine South. Maj. Louis LaGarde, a surgeon assigned in Sulu at the time, offers this most informative account of why the home office replaced the unreliable .38:

"The individual Moro is, on the average from five-feet-five to five-feet-seven inches tall... (But) he is absolutely fearless... The Americans had become acquainted with the *juramentado*, a Moro who had worked himself up to religious fanaticism and goes forth to kill all unbelievers in Mohammadanism until he himself is killed. He took some killing... Capt. Wood watched as a Moro rushed out of the tall grass... and made a beeline for one of our flankers. The man emptied his rifle into the Moro, but he came bounding on and did not stop... That was why the war Dept. recalled its .38 caliber Colt and Smith and Wesson revolvers from the Philippines and substituted the heavier Colt .45... He was finally felled by a .45 slug through both ears... He had thirty-two Krag balls through him and was only stopped by the Colt .45—the thirty-third bullet."

That is all very well if you look at it from the eyes of the pacifiers. The problem is that *juramentados* cannot be stopped by a low-caliber pistol, the solution is to use a high-caliber one. The problem is that suicide bombers cannot be deterred by secular threats, the solution is to use spiritual ones. It's another matter if you look at it from the eyes of the pacified, or who refuse to be so. You're minding your own business and here comes a bunch of people one day proposing to give you freedom by enslaving you. You're fighting for home and hearth, and you are suddenly called a terrorist, a savage, or whatever name the invader chooses to call you. You show ferocity in your resistance, and you invite retaliation by all the ways of heaven and earth.

There is in fact only one way to solve the problem of suicide bombers in Iraq, one that has the added virtue of giving Glodis and his idol at the White House a chance to have a fair hearing with St. Peter, if not an outright pass to heaven. In the same way that there was only one way to solve the problem of *juramentados* in Sulu, one that would have had the added virtue of giving Black Jack Pershing a lasting reputation for being a man of high caliber.

That was for America not to be in the Philippines. That is for America not to be in Iraq.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Really seeing the poor

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Didith V. Mendoza
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A CHANGE in perspective is needed when it comes to the way we regard the poor. In many urban areas in the country, the poor are collectively seen as a problem to be eliminated, an eyesore that needs to be hidden or taken out. They are a group of people we exclude socially, yet their numbers are large; they are ubiquitous. One cannot go around the streets without seeing them, yet we continually ignore them. If we could only see the poor around us, if we could see them at all, as evidence of life and activity, as contributors of tangible benefits to society, then we may be able to treat them differently.

The poor make the city come alive at any time of the day. They make each day feel like it's a fiesta. One vendor will shout *balut* as another shouts *monay*, while a jeepney barker beckons you to take a ride in a semi-dilapidated Sarao jeep that will take you to school, office, market or home. The cacophony of their voices vying for your attention competes with the toothy smile of a tired old man who cajoles you to buy that useless bobbing puppy you put on your dashboard, or wherever. The poor are also the ones who make makeshift bridges that office workers cross on when they get stuck in the flood. They also watch your car for you, even wash it at times, if you want them to.

Aside from these measly services which hardly contribute to the local economy, but which allow the poor to live one day at a time, the poor are also part of the workforce of the formal sector, however fleeting the jobs offered to them may be. Construction works cannot push through without them, for they supply the laborers and carpenters. Stores will not run without the services of bag boys, salesladies or delivery truck drivers. Restaurants will not run without waiters and waitresses, busboys and janitors.

We also live off the generosity of the poor. They make our newspapers cost less because they scavenge for used papers in dumps and trash cans all over the country. Our homes cost much less because the construction workers who build houses are squatters and are paid a pittance. Our streets would be more dangerous if not for some policemen, who, despite being squatters and underpaid, still patrol the city to at least give us some semblance of security.

Aside from providing services, the poor also contribute to the growth of local economy by being middlemen of larger businesses. Where deliveries must be made to places with small alleys or streets, *pedicab* or pushcart drivers are hired to deliver the goods. *Sari-sari* stores also sell in retail the products of big businesses. The poor widen the reach of big industries by bringing it down to their own sector.

These activities show us how the poor have adapted to the reality of their poverty. The poor show us the Pinoy's genius and resiliency. That despite the hard times, there are ways they can live that will be both beneficial to themselves and to their immediate society. They provide services few of us can readily give. But despite these contributions, we fail to see them as part of our world.

One evidence of how we don't see them in the proper perspective at times is the recent dash of many of the rich to save the trees along the islands of our major thoroughfares, while so few of them have taken up the cudgels to ease the burden of the poor who were forcefully moved from their homes or places of business. We disregard the poor so much that we drive them out to nearby provinces without thought of what awaits them in their new homes.

Earlier this year, several slumdwellers along the banks of the Pasig River were filled with fear as news of their relocation reached their shanties. A major government project was underway, and they had to get out of its way. They must voluntarily relocate to a site somewhere in the fringes of Metro Manila, lest they be left homeless.

News of being uprooted from a place one grew up in will undoubtedly leave a person angry, and at times, even violent. But these slumdwellers have shown a certain kind of strength at that time of impending demolition. Most of those who were to be relocated accepted the fact with resignation, saying it would be for the good of the majority. It was the right thing to do, they added, and they do not own the land anyway. However, they fear their new future. What will become of them now that their sources of income will also be taken away from them? One boy asked, will there be a car to watch and wash in the relocation site? An old woman asked, will somebody buy my green mangoes there? Another questioned, will it be feasible to open another *sari-sari* store there?

But of course, they all know the answer. They have heard of the experiences of other slumdwellers who were relocated ahead of them to various relocation sites. There are no jobs in relocation sites, and all their neighbors are poor like them, and the site so far, that there are no cars to watch and no customers in sight.

The problem with moving the poor is not merely about their loss of income due to relocation. The problem is, we don't see them as persons in the first place, but merely numbers that need to be transposed to another column where they "belong," out of sight, out of mind. We leave them languishing there, without jobs, with little access to basic services, after they have lived side by side with us, quietly and invisibly, for many years.

Who's afraid of satisfying sex?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG THE GUIDELINES that the moderator issued for the debate they called "Who's Afraid of the Reproductive Health Care Bill?," the one that cracked us up was "no hitting below the belt."

Well, of course we would have to "hit below the belt," if only metaphorically, since the panels would be discussing matters that precisely lie "below the belt." But one of the "anti" panelists, Dominador Chipeco of the Ligaya ng Panginoon Community, seems to think human reproduction has nothing to do with sex. What, he wondered, has a "satisfying and safe sex life" to do with reproductive health? I nearly fell off my chair. I wanted to tell him: "Oh—just everything!"

Chipeco's objection is fleshed out in a position paper prepared by the Coalition for Responsible Legislation in the Philippine Congress. By quoting the ICPD definition of reproductive health, which mentions the right of individuals to a "satisfying and safe sex life," the bill "promotes irresponsible sex," the paper says.

I, for one, want to know what's so objectionable and "irresponsible" about satisfying sex. What do opponents of HB 4110/SB 2325 want? That people have unsatisfying sex instead? In response to Chipeco's assertion that the search for "safe and satisfying sex" would lead to promiscuity, one participant wanted to know: "How many partners do you need before you're satisfied with your sex life?"

How many, indeed? I admit, some folks (men mostly) may use the lack of satisfaction or fulfillment in sex as a reason (or excuse) to search for multiple partners. But by the same token, would not a couple enjoying their sexual relations be more apt to stay together and remain faithful to each other?

* * *

CHIPECO and the other members of the "anti" panel—Dr. Ricardo Boncan of the group Defensores Fidei and Celia Villanueva of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate—pounded on a constant theme. Contraception is evil and anti-life, they said, because sexual relations should not only be confined to the marital state, but also only for the purpose of procreation. A couple, they said, should have sex only when they intend for the act to result in a pregnancy. But when Rep. Neric Acosta of Bukidnon wanted to know how they would sit on judgment on infertile couples, Chipeco waffled and said of course such couples were not covered as long as their minds were "open to the possibility of new life."

Well, let me ask another question: What of couples practicing natural family planning? When they have sex during the woman's "safe" days, are they committing a sin still?

Methinks what makes contraception such a sin in these people's eyes is not that it prevents pregnancy, but that it makes sex too convenient, painless and enjoyable for their taste. Sex is sinless for them only when one does it with guilt, fear, pain and no pleasure at all.

* * *

WHAT really got my goat during the debate was the opposing side's contention that in fact they are fighting the passage of the reproductive health care act because they are upholding the "dignity of women."

As one PUP student remarked during the open forum: "How can you uphold something you don't even recognize?" How could these groups, after all, claim to respect women and to be defending women's rights when they don't believe women have even the most basic right over their bodies? If you don't think women have the right to make decisions about whether, how often and even with whom they are to have sex and get pregnant, then you might as well claim that women "deserve" to be raped, since no one—especially not men, especially not their husbands—needs their consent before claiming use of their bodies.

Dr. Boncan (who is a dentist and not a medical doctor, much less an obstetrician/gynecologist) accused family planning advocates of "turning pregnancy into a disease" and of endangering women's health because contraceptive methods put users at risk of cancer and other ailments. While I do agree that pregnancy and childbirth is not a disease, we can't ignore either the reality that women even in this day and age die from the consequences of pregnancy and childbirth. In the Philippines, this means 5,000 women dying each year, or at least 10 women a day.

Many of the mothers die because they got pregnant while they were too young (below 16 years), too old (above 35 years), had too many pregnancies (more than three), had it too soon (less than three years after the last pregnancy), or they were too sick with anemia, TB or other diseases.

Clearly, not all women should be getting pregnant or giving birth—just yet. What is so evil, then, with providing them the means of their choice to delay or space their pregnancies?

* * *

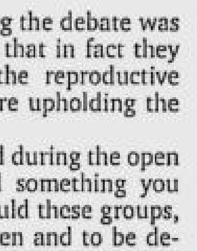
LET me address the matter of risks and side effects associated with the use of contraceptives.

No one, especially not women activists, deny that the use of contraceptives pose risks. One of the early advocacies of women's groups, in fact, was the need for thorough research and testing of all methods of contraception before they're approved for public use. Couples and women should also be given all the information they need, especially on possible health risks and side effects, so they can make what are called "informed decisions" on what method they are to use. The quality of counseling offered to couples and women has been one of the foremost concerns pushed by women's groups.

Still, we can't ignore the relative risks of contraception and maternal mortality. What are the risks associated with, say, breast cancer from oral contraceptives? Present studies place this at from 1 or 2 per million women. But in the Philippines, a woman's chances of dying from a mistimed pregnancy is 1 in 100. Does not contraception, in fact, save women's lives?

Summers at Teachers' Camp

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

TEACHERS' Camp, Baguio is a place of both wonder and fear in my childhood memory. Horses were rented either at Wright Park or the back of the Baguio Country Club, and we often passed the trails inside Teachers' Camp. Here, a horse once bolted from under me and stopped only after we hit a moving bus. Next year, my leg was bitten by an angry horse. The pain from these mishaps has since slipped into happy memory but I still associate Teachers' Camp with tales of headless ghosts and Yamashita treasure, narrated by the horse handlers. I returned to Teachers' Camp (without a horse), years later to address groups of teachers or students. While I was supposed to impart a sense of history, I did not realize that Teachers' Camp and the annual summer gathering of teachers here has a long history. Part of it in the 1908 "Report of the Philippine Commission to the US Secretary of War."

John Silva mounted an e-mail campaign to get Baguio declared a historical landmark in the same way that the National Historical Institute has set legal protection for parts of Silay, Taal, Vigan, Malolos, Pila and Silliman University. Much of Baguio's character is being eroded like landslides on Kennon Road. Gone is the scent of pine that used to greet your ascent to Baguio. The once-green mountainside is now a galaxy of GI sheets. The mountain air has since turned warm and polluted. The greatest irony is that one of the gaudy landmarks on Session Road is a pine tree made of cement! Isn't it cheaper to plant a real tree rather than try hard to simulate one? We should pitch in to preserve Baguio as a historic and environmental preserve.

On Jan. 18, 1908 the Philippine Commission approved the holding of a teachers' camp in Baguio and work began to prepare the site of the Baguio Industrial School for Igorot Boys. The land was cleared, a graded road built on the lot from which numerous pathways sprouted. 150 tents rose to house 360 teachers (120 were procured through US military stores and 30 manufactured in Baguio). The place was described quite romantically as, "A little valley and surrounding slopes and knolls, well timbered with pine. Several small glades contain springs and are grown up with myrtle, tree ferns, and the striking tropical vegetation of these altitudes..."

Water from a nearby spring was piped in, toilets as well as hot/cold baths were provided. Four large assembly tents were built for dining and storage. Two tents had wooden floors and served as classrooms. The main attraction was a nipa and *sawali* building used in the Philippine Carnival, which was dismantled, transported to Baguio, set up at the astounding cost of P200, and christened "The Ramada." Daily meals for everyone cost P2.75 per day or P75 a month.

Four academics imported from the United States were: W.D. MacClintock and Frederick Starr from the University of Chicago; Jesse D Burks, principal of the Teachers Training School, Albany, New York; and Guy H. Roberts from the University of California. These men gave inputs on Shakespeare's Greater Plays; Literature in the Elementary Schools; General Anthropology; General Ethnology; Genetic Psychology; Present-day Educational Tendencies; The Government of the United States; and Contemporaneous Problems in Government.

While English was the medium of instruction in public schools, three courses in Spanish were likewise offered. There were other talks that made me wonder what kind of teachers were in attendance because aside from three lectures on Philippine forests there was very little Philippine content. The esoteric list includes: "The Congo Free State"; "Whitman's Passage to India"; "The Reform of the English House of Lords"; "The Comic Spirit and its Levels of Manifestation"; "Mexico as a Field for Folklore Study"; "The San Francisco Graft Exposure and Good Government Movement"; "The Hairy Ainu of Japan"; "Ibsen's Reform in Drama"; "The Theory of Evolution"; "Mendelian Heredity"; and "Wordsworth's Doctrine of Joy."

It was notable that the teachers were encouraged to do ethnographic research. A three-day anthropological conference was inserted in the program that included talks on: "Philippine Ethnology"; "The Ilongot"; "Some Survivals of Malay Customary Law in the Philippines"; "Ilocano Superstitions and Practices"; "Bisayan Proverbs," etc. There were even talks by the famous Metcalf sisters whose collection of costumes and artifacts are now preserved in the US "Gong Music of Mindanao" by Elizabeth Metcalf and "Dress of the Bagobo" by Sarah H. Metcalf.

Everything went well except for a few cases of mountain diarrhea and unpaid bills regarding return travel of one of the visiting professors and one roll of tarred paper. While classes were held from 9 am to 12 noon, not all was academic work there, like 12 morning concerts by the PC Band, lots of sports and recreation including: fires, dances, ball games, horseback-riding, even a cañao. The Bureau of Printing even published a daily paper, The Teachers Assembly Herald, that should be our primary source on how the summer institute progressed.

Teachers' Camp is not just another landmark in Baguio. It is a place where teachers were trained for close to a century. A study of these summer camps over the years will paint a picture of Philippine education.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A second time around

HIGH BLOOD

Remedios T. Gonzales

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

ABOUT half a century ago, it was unheard of for people in their "golden years" to even think of remarrying. However, times have changed and the average number of senior citizens who have remarried has since risen. To plain observers, it would seem that the attitudes and beliefs on this subject have become increasingly progressive. On the other hand, I must say that looking at these "averages" can be a little deceiving—particularly when you see that there are more people, me for example, who believe that remarrying after age 60, is not the way to go. I personally believe that a person thinking of getting married at this age is not as single-minded as when he or she was 20. Emotional and mental conflicts are bound to arise even as the desire for love and companionship continues with the years. The transition can be rather scary. Nevertheless, I'm not trying to discourage others who want to remarry. It's actually their choice. I look back and try to analyze all the factors that led me not to make that choice. To me, "love does not forever stay lovelier the second time around" and the popular phrase "and they lived happily ever after" happen only in fairy tales. Two episodes in my life as a widow bolster this thinking.

Let me tell you my story.

I was widowed 10 years ago at the age of 53. I must admit that it didn't take very long for me to recover from the grief of losing my husband to an illness. Barely a year after, there emerged a suitor who would be successful in filling up the void caused by my loss. He is a resident of California, a friend of many years who eventually became a widower. He has two grown-up sons. Across the miles, we communicated mainly through phone calls and through letters. The notion of saying yes to this man seemed bright. Initially, there appeared no impediment to "living happily ever after." I had the blessings of my three grown-up sons who were open to the whole idea. What could only spoil it was my own uncertainty about leaving my home and settling abroad with the guy. Anyway, there was no rush to decide. Before I knew it, nine years had passed. And then there began to appear no end in sight because his two sons got embroiled in illegal drugs. The problem occupied a major part of his life and I was afraid that on account of it, I would share possible conflicts with him in the future. Likewise, a real sign to make me believe that he was prepared to let go of his children and give priority to our relationship, never materialized. And so the love of this Juliet for her Romeo that was once a fire turned into dying embers.

I was back to square one. Surprisingly, I still continued to flirt with the idea of love and marriage. Probably it was because friends and relatives continued to nag me about it. From the previous experience, I was convinced that remarrying at this point is no longer for me. I began to realize that too much was at stake. I also felt weary about considering someone new again. I might have spoken too soon. Unexpectedly, someone from the distant past came back into my life. He was my steady 40 years ago—before I even married my husband. Well, he wasn't someone new, I mused. I believe we were truly in love then but drifted apart because of parental objection. He later migrated and has since been living abroad. I then learned that he had never married. Anyway, after retirement and 30 unbroken years of living in Austria, he came to visit the Philippines. We met again and it was evident that the old feeling was still in our hearts.

Our personal reunion lasted only a month (his scheduled vacation) but it was quite a memorable one. After he left, the affair continued to prosper, thanks to modern technology. The Internet is indeed a marvelous invention. I enjoyed communicating with him almost daily, mostly by e-mail. It pays to be computer-literate, and I thought that having a working knowledge of this technology was a great blessing especially if you are over 60. It didn't occur to me that this modern-day wonder would become a major source of stress for me.

I concede that my level of computer skill was average but he made me feel like a dummy. And I thought I had already mastered the book "Computer for Dummies." He is an engineer, specializing in software development in the field of automation. I am an AB graduate who majored in English. Was he perhaps hoping that I could match his expertise? Without doubt, he has good qualities not only professionally but also as a person. But he is too organized and pedantic especially about computer technology. Likewise, his straightforward nature was a little too strong for my forever "*pusong* Pinay." The factors of age and environment, (German culture, in his case) must have changed him from the person I used to know. I guess those factors worked both ways. I realized we were no longer compatible and I began to accept that the union would not work. One day I nonchalantly deleted a folder in my computer that I named "Durrnberg" and as you would expect, all our e-mail files and all the plans that we made, went "kaput."

Surely, there is a reason for everything. I would like to look at my two latest experiences as God's gift to me. He allowed me to momentarily enjoy the thought of marriage even knowing that I was not really ready for it anymore. For a while, I felt young and romantic again and my life was blessed with a different kind of excitement. Maybe it's over, but the happy memories still and will always linger on. My negative thoughts about remarriage at this period of my life, however, are more about a desire for freedom and peace of mind and about making a new life not only for myself but also for my family (children, in-laws and grandchildren) who, in one way or another, would be affected by my decisions. Someone once said, "In life, it is difficult to learn which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn." I'm glad I learned which one not to cross. I am now determined to focus on the apostolate I embarked which has been very rewarding for the last three years. Hopefully, it will continue to provide me with a sense of personal and spiritual fulfillment much more important in my quest for a new life. Marriage, for a second time, can take the backseat.

Remedios T. Gonzales, 63, and her late husband, Bobby, was a core member of PDCC, a Catholic Marriage Encounter Community.

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Reconsider reviving Panay railway

I AM a concerned citizen residing in Iloilo City who would like to appeal for the junking of the proposed bill reviving the Panay Railways Inc.

The following factors are worth further study, a serious weighing of the pros and cons:

1. No railway system in the world can operate on revenues from a mere 100-kilometer stretch. This is the reason rail companies in the United States merged to lower operational costs. Only the LRT, operating in urban areas, is the exception.

2. The capital needed for this system will be enormous, considering the broken rail network and changing of the rail gauge.

3. Railway properties in urban areas such as Iloilo City, Passi, Roxas and those in the towns like Pavia, Sta. Barbara and Pototan have been rented out to people who have constructed residences there. To evict them will mean a lot of expense and destabilize government efforts on housing.

4. The government can recover a lot of money by selling the lots to occupants and other interested parties. The proceeds can be used to cover the budget deficit or as additional capital for the housing program.

5. The reasons presented by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas when he was interviewed by "Reklamo Publico" don't hold water. No commodities will be transported by rail to end users as this would require triple handling. Passenger volume will be minimal, considering the number of L300s operating between Iloilo and Roxas cities.

We have enough "white elephants" in government corporations. Let us not add another.

—DANIEL F. INFANTE JR.
Barangay San Vicente,
Jaro, Iloilo City

A disservice to the government

RECENT developments in the government's drive against Moro Islamic Liberation Front terrorists are indeed very encouraging. The Armed Forces has shown its remarkable might and capability to destroy the enemy. This is proof that if the government and the military mean business, they can solve the peace and order problem in the country.

However, it is very disheartening to note the spate of adverse reports on the Mindoro incident about the killing of the two militants last April in which some soldiers were tagged as culprits. In these news items, the name of DOJ Task Force Mindoro head, Undersecretary Calida, appears too conspicuously to miss. In his so-called investigation sorties, the undersecretary was almost always seen with an entourage of media people. I have the impression that Calida has been grandstanding in his investigation of the incident by releasing to the media piecemeal developments on the investigation of the case. Since his designation as the task force head, Calida has issued information to the media every week on the murder of the two militants, but his findings are obviously wanting in clear and sufficient evidence. He has demonstrated more hype than substance in the investigation of the case.

I am neither a forensic expert nor an authority in criminal justice, but I believe Calida doesn't have the competence to handle the case. In addition, his integrity in handling the investigation is, to say the least, dubious and obviously biased against the military.

To illustrate: Calida and his team stayed for only a day in Mindoro last April while gathering evidence. Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Satur Ocampo and some members of Karapatan were with Calida. It makes me wonder if a day's stay in Mindoro was really enough to gather sufficient evidence against the culprits. Or did Calida's Task Force Mindoro rely on information spoon-fed by Bayan Muna and Karapatan for evidence in identifying the perpetrators?

I also learned that the task force used the picture of Cafgus in camouflage shirts when the witnesses of the crime were called to identify the suspects of the double murder case from among the several pictures of different individuals presented to them. Ironically, Caigas was the only one in camouflage attire. Thus, the witnesses unanimously singled out Caigas as the prime suspect in the alleged murders.

Calida has wittingly or unwittingly impaired the military's as well as the government's efforts to win the hearts and minds of our people. His forays in the media are a disservice to the government.

—JUANITO SAMONTE,
Puerto Galera,
Oriental Mindoro

Worthy and notable DTI project

I READ about this DTI project called PCPS and I must say that it's about time that the government finally decided to take the initiative in projects such as this.

The distribution of almost 20,000 computers to public schools nationwide definitely happens once in a blue moon and the Department of Trade and Industry, though not the lead government agency greatly expected to come up with this project, must be commended for its efforts.

The project may not automatically close the technological gap between public and private schools overnight but I believe that if efforts for this project are sustained, then the project could certainly spell something good for the country in the long run.

—JARIUS CONCEPCION,
4 Maaralin St., Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Lack of parking space on East Avenue

GOVERNMENT offices and hospitals are situated side by side along East Avenue in Quezon City. This is starting to produce an acute parking shortage. I am quite certain that anyone who has transacted business in these institutions has experienced the frustration of looking for a secure parking space. One can even imagine the money lost in terms of gasoline wasted in a continuous search for a parking slot.

This is particularly true around the SSS, Bureau of Census, LTO, East Avenue Medical Center and the Philippine Heart Center. It is hoped that these agencies will come up with a long-term solution to this problem soonest.

Towing illegally parked vehicles is just another source of irritation or graft and corruption but it does not address the lack of parking spaces.

One solution that should be considered is to have the vacant lot in front of the SSS, which belongs to the Central Bank, converted into a parking lot for all. That lot used to be a squatters' domain and nobody ever paid any rent for it. This time, fees can be collected for parking.

Something must be done about this problem, and soon.

—ROBERTO G. SANIDAD,
Health Care Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Quezon City

A more sober celebration of St. John's feast

I REALLY wonder how we can put a stop to the tradition of dousing people with water (sometimes even dirty water) as part of the traditional celebration of the feast of St. John every 24th of June.

I was in a passenger jeepney plying a street in Tanza, Cavite, last June 24. Some guys on the street were waiting for vehicles to pass by and splashing water on anyone. Most of the passengers in the jeepney I was riding got wet, including myself. Some passengers, who were wearing their uniforms could no longer proceed to their destinations (office, school or workplace). Some passengers who got mad decided to get off and this resulted in fist fights.

Although my clothes were wet, I still proceeded to where I was going but then I noticed that my cell phone was no longer functioning because it also got wet.

I happened to pass by another jeepney which crashed into another jeepney as it tried to evade the celebrators, causing injuries to several passengers. There are countless sad stories of mishaps of this sort.

In my case, my damaged cell phone cost me about P1,000 for repairs.

Can we not put an end to this kind of hooliganism? Surely, St. John's feast day can be celebrated more appropriately and more soberly?

—ENELCITA CABANA,
Tanza, Cavite

Mindanao PNP exec reacts to reports

THIS is in response to news reports alleging my involvement in illegal gambling activities in Central Mindanao.

Allow me to inform the public that I assumed the office of regional director of Central Mindanao (Region 12) less than two months ago. One of the first official acts that I performed as regional director was to issue a strong directive to all my provincial directors to go after all sorts of illegal gambling in their areas of responsibilities.

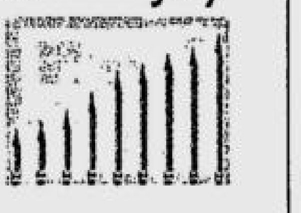
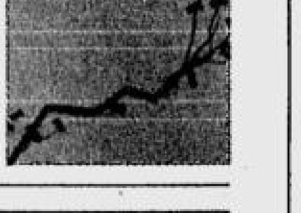
Since mid-May of this year, my office conducted police operations against illegal gambling in Central Mindanao, apprehending 253 persons including 22 financiers. P1,539,752 was confiscated including 29 video karera and slot machines, fighting cocks and other gambling paraphernalia. In Sultan Kudarat alone, 36 persons were apprehended including one major financier in 25 operations against the "last two Sweepstakes," a form of illegal gambling popular in Mindanao. P27,690 was confiscated during these raids and 23 cases were filed against the suspects.

Immediately after my assumption as regional director, *"jueteng"* and other popular forms of gambling were thoroughly checked with the apprehension of local operators and their financiers. We conducted lightning raids against these operators although my police operatives noted the propensity of these operators to drop the names of high authorities in government.

Therefore, the reports that the four governors of the region wanted Malacañang to replace me because of alleged involvement in gambling is a mystery and a puzzle to me. The serious and sweeping accusations against my person could not have come from them. It is perplexing. But unless I hear it personally from them, I will refuse to believe its veracity.

There is evidently a conspiracy in some media quarters to crucify me because of the obvious pattern in destroying my credibility. But I will not be cowed by intimidation and will continue my battle against illegal gambling. I assure the people of Central Mindanao that it is not in my character to be frightened by these powerful people.

—CHIEF SUPT. RODOLFO A. TOR,
regional director,
Philippine National Police,
Region 12



Kailangan Ka!

4th Corporate Social Responsibility Week 2003 July

9 Wednesday — Karunungan at Kalinangan.

8:00 - 9:30 REGISTRATION
10:00 - 11:30 OPENING OF EXHIBITS
OPENING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor: Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
12:00 - 1:30 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: Corporate Social Responsibility
Speaker: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
President, Ayala Corporation
1:30 - 3:30 PLENARY: BUSINESS INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION (Open)
Teacher Development · Student Development · School Infrastructure
& Facilities · Multi-Media · Information Technology
Moderator: Guillermo Luz, Makati Business Club

3:45 - 5:00 IN RETROSPECT: Moving Forward (Open)
Speakers: Dep Ed Sec. Edilberto de Jesus
Sec. Andrew Gonzalez
Sec. Armand Fabella
Moderator: Solita Monsod
1:30 - 3:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Concurrent to Plenary - Open)
Ayala Foundation - USA · Children's Hour · Creative Fund
Raising · Foundation for Sustainable Societies · KALAHI-CIDSS ·
Peace & Equity Foundation · UNDP Small Grants Programme
· Mindanao Business Council
5:30 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT with MIRANT PHILIPPINES
Edgardo A. Bautista
President & CEO, Mirant Philippines

DAILY ON-SITE ACTIVITIES: (for JULY 9 to 11)
· Photo Exhibits/Program Exhibits/Resource Center:
8 A.M. To 4 P.M.
· Fun, Friendship And Learning At The Knowledge Camp:
Daily 8:00-11:00 A.M.; 1:00-4:00 P.M.
· Wellness Booth: Free Blood Pressure Taking, Blood Typing,
Cholesterol Testing, ECG, Osteoporosis Screening, Fitness Sessions;
Foot Spa, Massage: 9:00A.M. To 4:00 P.M.
· Bloodletting
· Smoke-Emission Testing

10 Thursday — Kalikasan at Kalusugan.

8:00 - 10:00 PLENARY: PARTNERING IN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (Open)
· ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan: Save the La Mesa Watershed
· Ayala Foundation: Solid Waste Management
· First Philippine Conservation International
· FPHC-PBSP: Palparan Integrated Community Development Program
· Mirant Philippines: Carbon Sink Initiative
10:15 - 12:00 PLENARY: BRIDGING LEADERSHIP (Open)
Speaker: Prof. Ernesto Garilao, AIM
12:00 - 1:30 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Speakers: Secretary Elisea G. Gozun, DENR
Motassim A. Al-Ma'ashouq, President, PETRON
Governor Leonardo Roman, Bataan
Dr. Chua Thia-Eng, UNDP-IMO

2:00 - 3:30 HERITAGE CONSERVATION and PROGRESS: KA PARTNER BA? (Open)
2:30 - 3:20 LEADERS FOR HEALTH (Open)
3:20 - 3:45 WATERLESS MUNICIPALITIES (Open)
3:45 - 5:00 OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPINE BIODIVERSITY (Open)
3:45 - 5:15 VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT (Open)
2:00 - 3:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
· Saving a World Wonder: The Ifugao Rice Terraces
Saving a World Wonder: The Ifugao Rice Terraces
· Inquirer and Linis-Ganda Waste Segregation and Recycling
· Petron e Volunteerism In Action (VIA)
· Tribung MFI
· Gawad Kalinga

3:30 - 5:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
· Community Development through Health Intervention
· Disaster Management · Kilusan Ligtas Malaria
· Stay Healthy: Don't Start ...... Smoking!
· TB in the Workplace, Waterless Municipalities
5:30 AEROBICS and TAI-CHI

11 Friday — Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran.

8:00 - 10:00 PLENARY: STEP-UP: BUSINESS SECTOR-LED PARTNERSHIP
IN URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION IN METRO-MANILA (Open)
Session Chair: Juan B. Santos
Chairman, Nestlé (Philippines) and
PBSP Center for Corporate Citizenship
10:15 - 12:00 PLENARY: CEO FORUM ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
· Presentation of Paper on Social Entrepreneurship by Myrna Cacho
· Case Presentation by La Frutera: Senen Bacani/Datu Ibrahim Paglas III
· CEO Reactors: Rex Drilon II, COO, Ortigas & Co.;
Oscar Torralba, President, Town Holdings Corporation
and Pacita Juan, Director, Figaro Foundation
12:00 - 1:30 LUNCHEON and PLENARY
Theme: Youth Entrepreneurship
Speaker: Eliseo Santiago, Country Chair, Shell Companies in the Philippines

1:30 - 3:00 PLENARY: TEACHING COMMUNITY ON DOING
BUSINESS WITH BUSINESS - "KA SOSYO KA!" (Open)
· Business Working with an Intermediary
· Business Working with Cooperatives
· Microfinance
· Business Counselor for SMEs (c/o MAP)
1:30 NEWSPAPER DRIVE TURNOVER CEREMONY
· Philippine Daily Inquirer
3:00 - 5:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (Open)
HOW TO BE A SUPPLIER
· SM · PHIL. AMALGAMATED SUPERMARKET ASSN.
· TOBY'S · PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION
· NESTLE · RFM · BUENOMANO CRAFTS
· VITARICH CORPORATION · SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

RTD: Understanding the Tobacco Regulation
Act of 2003 (Philip Morris)
4:00 - 5:00 PLENARY: BENCHMARKING
CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES (Open)
Speaker: Pedro Roxas, CEO & President,
CADP Group Corporation
Co-Chair, PBSP Center for Corporate Citizenship
5:00 CLOSING CEREMONIES
Guest of Honor: Manuel V. Pangilinan, CEO & President, PLDT
Chairman, Philippine Business for Social Progress
5:30 COCKTAILS AND NETWORKING
Sponsored by: Philam/AIG Group of Companies
and San Miguel Corporation

Due to increased participation, venue has been transferred to PICC. For inquiries, please call: 8929189; 8929084 or visit www.lcf.org

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Ka Partner Ka!
sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

4 US soldiers killed in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD—Four United States soldiers were killed and two others wounded Tuesday in a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack on their vehicle by unknown assailants in central Baghdad, witnesses said.

The attack occurred at 10 a.m. when assailants fired an RPG on a US Humvee light multi-wheeled vehicle near a gas station in the al-Mustansiriya neighborhood, they said.

Four US troops were killed and two others wounded, they said. The casualties were immediately removed from the scene.

An Iraqi civilian was also wounded and taken to a hospital, said the witnesses, confirming that his 18-seat transport bus parked by the gas station was completely burnt.

There was no immediate confirmation by the US military of the attack or the casualties.

Hours earlier, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had rejected suggestions that US-led forces in Iraq faced a Vietnam-style guerrilla war. But he cautioned that it would take some time to stamp out armed resistance.

Earlier in the morning, another US soldier was slightly wounded when a military convoy was fired on with an RPG near Baghdad airport, the US military said.

"These explosions are a message to the Americans because they have done nothing for the Iraqi people. There will be more and more explosions," said Mohammad Owdeh, a local resident.

US forces have come under fire almost daily of late in mainly Sunni Muslim central Iraq, a stronghold for ousted President Saddam Hussein, who repressed the Shi'ite majority.

At least 22 US and six British soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since US President George W. Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on May 1.

A blast overnight in the Iraqi town of Falluja damaged a mosque and killed at least one Iraqi, the US military said.

A military spokesperson said US troops did not know what had caused the explosion, which he said took place in a building next to the mosque in the town west of Baghdad. Residents said several people had been killed. *AFP, Reuters*

N. Korea may be developing compact nukes, report says

WASHINGTON—US intelligence officials believe North Korea is developing the technology to make nuclear warheads small enough to fit atop the country's arsenal of missiles, potentially putting Tokyo and US troops in Japan at risk, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

Citing unnamed officials familiar with intelligence reports, the newspaper said the Central Intelligence Agency had informed US allies in Asia that American satellites had identified an advanced testing site in an area called Youngdoktong.

At the site, equipment has been set up to test conventional explosives that, when detonated, could compress a plutonium core and set off a compact nuclear explosion, the report said.

Some intelligence officials say they believe that the existence of the testing range is evidence that North Korea intends to manufacture much more sophisticated weapons than previously believed, The Times pointed out.

The new testing capability does not mean North Korea can actually build a small weapon, but it suggests that the North Koreans are moving to combine their two most advanced weapons projects: nuclear technology and missile technology, the report said.

The new intelligence reports suggest that they could develop such a weapon in less than a year, but some officials warn that that assessment represents what one called "a best guess rather than a solid estimate," The Times reported.

According to officials who have been briefed on the American reports, conventional explosions simulating a nuclear detonation have been set off at the testing site, which is near North Korea's main nuclear complex, the paper said.

North Korea has never tested a nuclear weapon, though the CIA believes it has manufactured one or two crude devices. *AFP*

Blair has lost public's trust, survey shows

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair was nursing a double setback Tuesday after lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to ban fox hunting with dogs in England and Wales and a poll showed he has lost the public's trust.

Against the Labor government's wishes, lawmakers late Monday backed a total ban on fox hunting by 362 votes to 154, a majority of 208. The defeat came just hours before a poll in the Financial Times revealed two thirds of voters do not trust the British leader.

The loss of public trust comes as Blair stands accused of deliberately exaggerating evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction in order to win support for going to war alongside the United States.

The defeat for Blair over fox hunting followed a dramatic turn of events in Britain's lower House of Commons.

His government had intended for lawmakers to vote on proposals to ban stag hunting and hare coursing while allowing fox hunting under license.

However following a stormy Commons debate lasting more than five hours, the government withdrew its proposals at the eleventh hour, allowing lawmakers the opportunity to vote on an outright ban to fox hunting—an issue that has pitted animal rights activists against countryside dwellers who see their way of life under threat. *AFP*

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STILL AT THE HELM
Chinese soldiers celebrate the 82nd anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party in the provincial capital Guangzhou June 30. China's Communist Party, under growing pressure to introduce change after monopolizing politics for more than five decades, said any reform would be aimed at preserving party rule. REUTERS

West Bank attack mars truce

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian gunman attacked an Israeli army checkpoint and was shot dead on Tuesday in another blow to a ceasefire declared by Palestinian factions under international pressure to uphold a shaky new peace plan.

The West Bank attack reported by the Israeli army occurred as the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers prepared for a meeting to weigh further steps on the "road map" to peace drawn up by a US-led group of international mediators.

Israel pulled forces back from much of the Gaza Strip on Sunday and Monday, restoring general free movement for Palestinians for the first time in two-and-a-half years under a US-mediated disengagement deal meant to advance the road map.

Islamist militants and the mainstream Fatah movement which launched an uprising for statehood in 2000 issued a truce statement in Gaza on Sunday. But armed groups within Fatah lack a central command and West Bank elements refused to cease fire.

A West Bank cell of the Fatah-affiliated al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for the shooting death of a road worker on Monday. It was not immediately known who carried out Tuesday's assault near the city of Tulkarm, a Brigades bastion.

An army spokesperson said none of the soldiers was hit in the incident. "A terrorist armed with a pistol opened fire at the roadblock, but no one was hurt. The soldiers fired at him and he was killed," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told a meeting of his parliamentary Likud faction on Monday that progress in peace talks depended on Palestinian authorities "absolutely" suppressing violence. But he also said "a certain number" of Palestinian prisoners would be freed.

"Our readiness and ability to take risks to give the process a chance will grow if there will be quiet," Sharon said.

At the meeting expected to be held in Sharon's office in Jerusalem, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas was likely to present the truce as evidence of his reformist government's effectiveness in achieving calm.

But Sharon has demanded the dismantling of "terror organizations"—or militant groups—such as Hamas which Israel fears will regroup during their proclaimed three-month truce since they remain opposed to negotiated peace. *Reuters*

US pressed to lead Liberia peace mission

MONROVIA—A team of monitors aiming to separate Liberia's foes was to begin work in the West African country on Tuesday as the United States resisted pressure to make a firm commitment to lead a peacekeeping mission.

The regional monitors were due to arrive in the besieged capital Monrovia and start mapping an ill-defined front line between rebels and troops loyal to President Charles Taylor, a former warlord now indicted for war crimes.

But the bigger question of who would hold the ceasefire line remained unanswered with international pressure mounting on the United States, already stretched by deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, to take the lead role.

"We are looking at a variety of options and plans and we will discuss it in greater detail tomorrow, but no decisions have been made yet," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Monday in a television interview.

Powell said he had spoken with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday and that President George W. Bush would be informed shortly and a decision made.

Many Liberians feel the United States has an obligation to rescue a country founded by freed American slaves more than 150 years ago. West African states have pledged troops but want US support.

American leaders are still scarred by their humiliating withdrawal from a humanitarian mission to Somalia in 1993 that left 18 Americans dead.

The question of America's role in Liberia is likely to overshadow Bush's five-day African trip starting July 7. He will not visit Liberia.

As diplomats debated, Monrovia's residents were counting the cost of two rebel incursions, that claimed 700 lives, and bracing for the next attack. Taylor's troops beefed up their defences on Monday, using sandbags to secure a key bridge.

Fighting in the city died down on Friday after rebels declared a unilateral ceasefire as they were pushed beyond the city limits by Taylor's troops. *Reuters*

S'pore gives 5-star rating to toilet

SINGAPORE—Singapore's environment minister awarded the country's first five-star rating to a public restroom on Tuesday, at the start of a nationwide drive to flush out dirty lavatories.

Environment Minister Lim Swee Say launched the "Happy Toilet" campaign, which will rate public restrooms using a five-star system similar to that used for hotels.

"I am looking very forward to experiencing this toilet myself so I can walk out of the toilet feeling happy," Lim said at a news conference, before placing the award plaque outside a restroom at a suburban shopping mall in the wealthy Southeast Asian city-state.

Clean public lavatories are crucial for the country "to maintain its reputation as a magnet for human talent and a top location for investment," the Restroom Association of Singapore said in a statement.

The award-winning restroom features giant comic book-style murals at its entrance and air jets to dry floors and other surfaces.

A poster in the women's restroom reads "Dirty toilets attract the wrong crowd," and depicted a woman dressed as a giant cockroach and smoking, with strands of toilet paper hanging from her insect-like legs.

The campaign aims to raise the standard of public restrooms by recognizing those that are well-designed and well-kept, said Jack Sim, the restroom association's president. *AP*

US pilot in 'friendly fire' deaths of Canadians faces dereliction trial

HOUSTON—A US Air Force pilot, who bombed Canadian troops in Afghanistan and killed four will face a court-martial for dereliction of duty, the Air Force said on Monday.

The maximum punishment that F-16 fighter pilot Maj. Harry Schmidt, 37, could face is six months in a military prison without pay if convicted, the Air Force said.

He would have faced a potential prison sentence of up to 64 years had the original charges of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault been referred to a court-martial.

In a statement issued from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, the Air Force said the dereliction charge alleges "Schmidt willfully failed to exercise appropriate flight discipline over his aircraft." It also alleges he did not follow the rules of engagement and special instructions to airmen in effect on date of the incident, April 17, 2002.

The Commander of the 8th Air Force, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, referred the dereliction charge to trial after Schmidt refused an offer last week to have his fate decided in an administrative hearing.

However, Schmidt said he felt he could not get a fair hearing from Carlson over the "friendly fire" accident near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. A flight of two US F-16s killed four and wounded eight members of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Schmidt dropped a 230-kg bomb on what he and flight leader Maj. William Umbach thought at the time were Taliban forces fighting US and other troops in Afghanistan. *Reuters*

COMICAL MOURNER
A Maori wearing traditional mourning face-painting pulls a face in this combination photograph while participating in a funeral ceremony for building worker's union leader Brian Miller in Sydney July 1. REUTERS

E-mail to doomed shuttle crew referred to wayward foam

WASHINGTON—Shuttle Columbia commander Rick Husband and pilot William McCool knew that insulating foam hit the craft after liftoff, but were told it was "not even worth mentioning," according to an e-mail released on Monday.

Investigators have said the foam strike seconds after launch is the most probable cause of the Feb. 1 disaster, in which the craft disintegrated over Texas as it reentered the atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

The message from Steve Stich, a space shuttle flight director at Nasa's Johnson Space Center, sent on Jan. 23, aimed to prepare Husband and McCool for any possible media questions about the foam strike.

"There is one item that I would like to make you aware of," Stich wrote. "This item is not even worth mentioning other than wanting to make sure that you are not surprised by it in a question from a reporter."

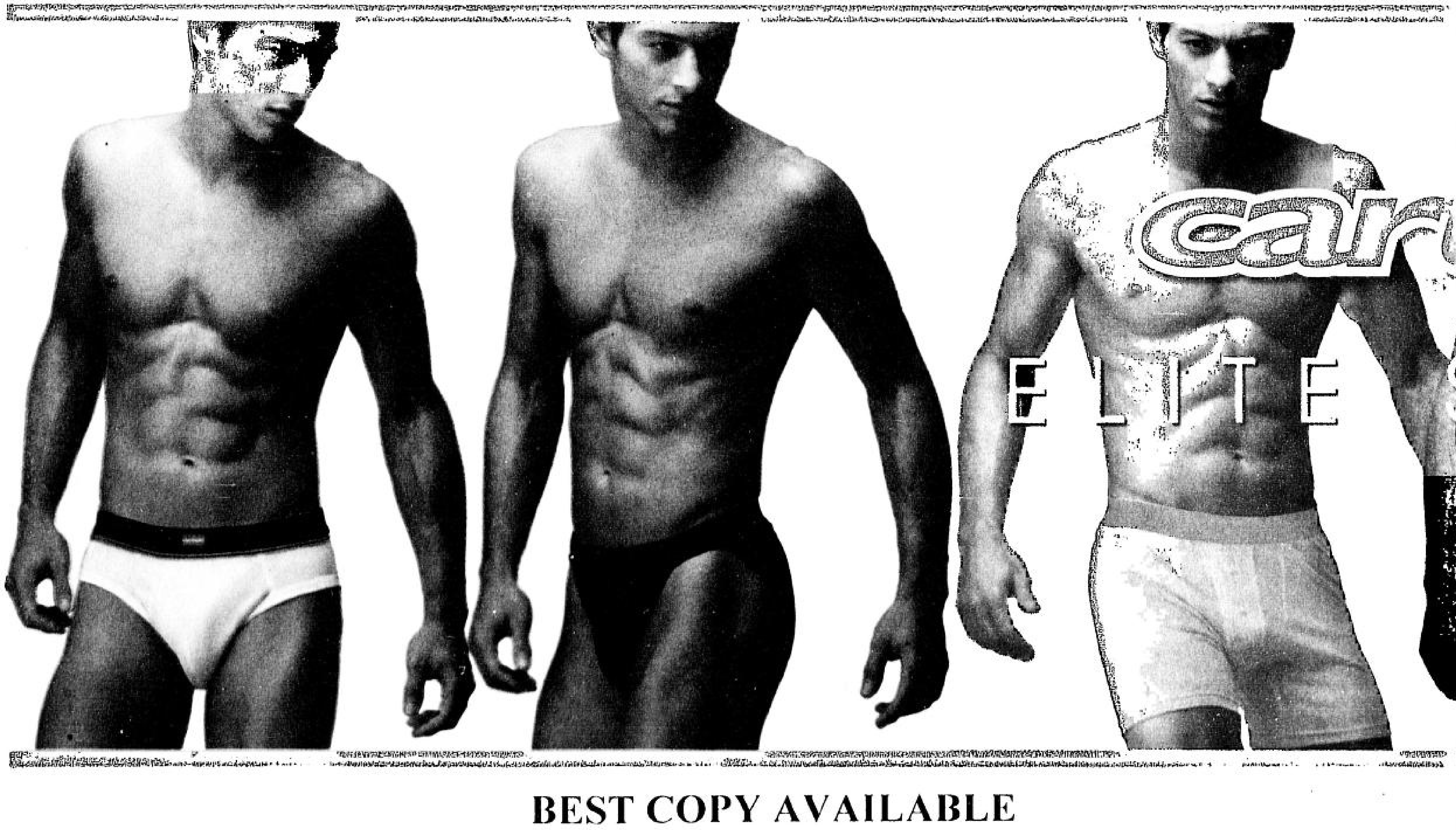
Stich went on to say that photo analysis showed that foam insulation from the shuttle's external fuel tank had fallen onto the shuttle's left wing "in the area of transition from Chine to Main Wing"—where the shuttle's shape flares from nose to wing—but was no cause for concern.

"The impact appears to be totally on the lower surface and no particles are seen to traverse over the upper surface of the wing," he wrote. "Experts have reviewed the high-speed photography and there is no concern for RCC or tile damage," he said, referring to the reinforced carbon-carbon material at the wing's leading edge and the shuttle's heat-shielding tiles.

"We have seen this same phenomenon on several other flights and there is absolutely no concern for entry," Stich added.

Husband wrote back, joking about one phrase in the e-mail:

"Thanks a million Steve! ... I saw the word Chine below and thought it was 'China.' I guess it's believable that you might meet someone from China by the name of Main Wing :)." Soon after the accident, Nasa released e-mail exchanges among various US space agency engineers, questioning the impact of the foam strike, but agency officials concluded that it posed no threat to the orbiter. *Reuters*



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Pope picks new leader to replace Boston's Law

BOSTON—The bishop who soothed victims' anger in one of the first big clergy sex abuse scandals to rock the US Catholic Church will replace Cardinal Bernard Law as leader of the crisis-torn Archdiocese of Boston, according to a report published on Monday.

The Vatican will announce in the coming days that Pope John Paul has picked Sean Patrick O'Malley, the Roman Catholic bishop of Palm Beach, Florida, to permanently replace Law, said John Allen Jr., a Rome correspondent for National Catholic Reporter, which published the report on its website.

Boston was the epicenter of a priestly child sex scandal that rocked the church in the United States last year and, if confirmed, O'Malley would bring to the job experience of dealing with sex abuse cases.

Law resigned in December after a scandal in which leaders of his diocese allowed priests who were known sex abusers to remain in active ministry instead of defrocking them or reporting them to civil authorities.

The Vatican had no immediate comment, though Vatican sources said O'Malley, 59, was among those considered for the Boston post, one of the most important in the US church.

Spokespersons at both the Archdiocese of Boston and the Diocese of Palm Beach did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

But Roderick MacLeish, a Boston lawyer representing hundreds of people who have brought sexual abuse lawsuits against the Boston archdiocese, said he has known O'Malley for a decade and called him the best man for the job.

"If this is true, this is extraordinary news. He is extremely humble and very compassionate," MacLeish told Reuters. "I am elated."

O'Malley, a member of the Franciscan order, was bishop of Fall River, Massachusetts, from 1992 to 2002. There, he dealt with the case of James Porter, a former priest jailed on more than three dozen counts of molesting children.

O'Malley set up screening procedures for employees and priests to try to avoid a repeat, and MacLeish praised the bishop for his willingness to communicate openly with Porter's victims and their attorneys and for the speed with which he settled the civil cases.

The Rev. Robert Bullock, chair of Boston's largest forum for priests and one of those who had called for Law to resign, said O'Malley had responded to the Porter crisis with sensitivity and good strategic planning.

"This is good news," Bullock said. "Bishop O'Malley is highly qualified to provide the healing and the rebuilding trust that is so important here."

But several clergy sexual abuse victims said the archdiocese's track record would make it difficult to trust the new church leader. *Reuters*

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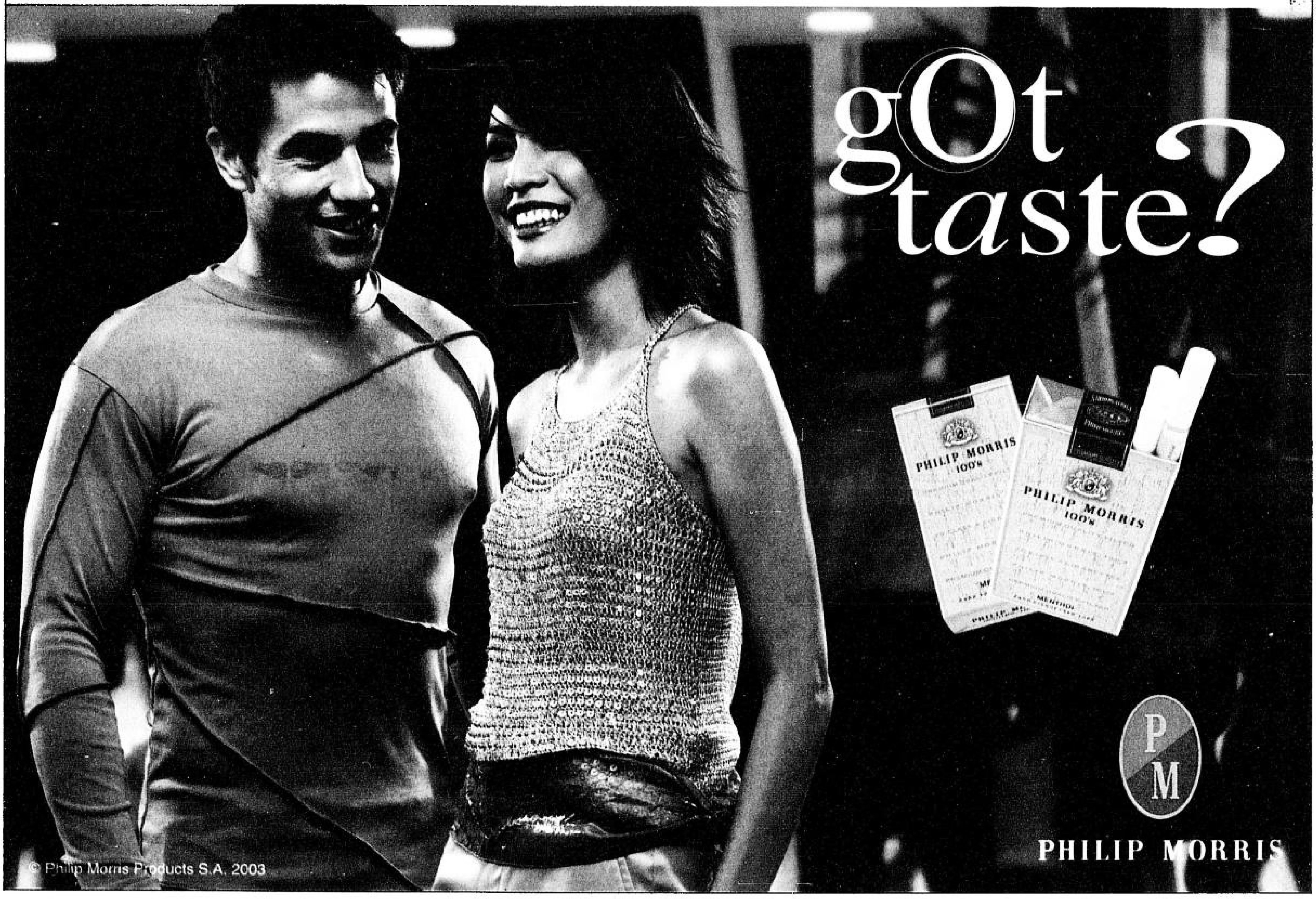

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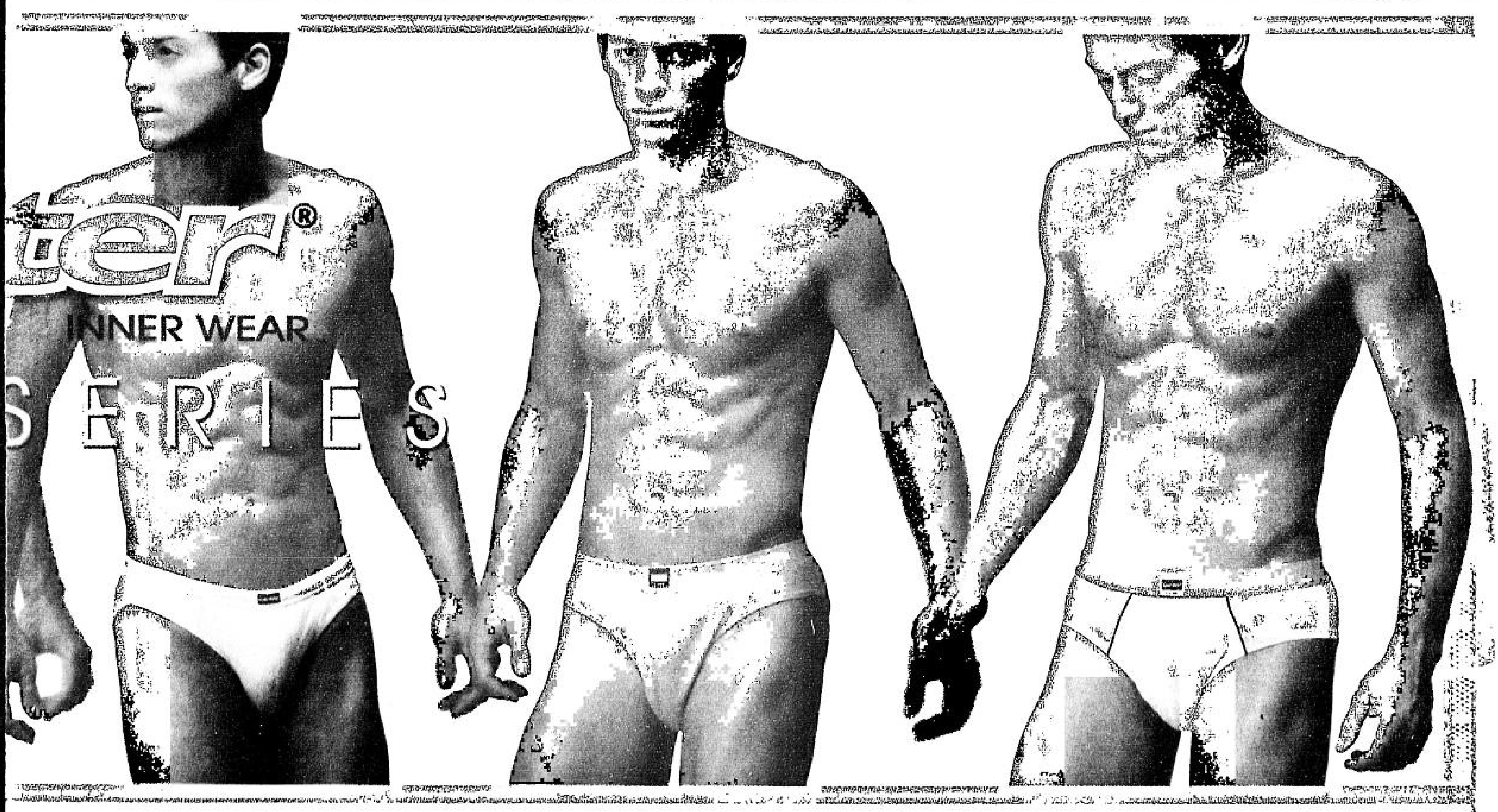

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3 drug traffickers killed in shootout

TANAUAN CITY —After police arrested the supposed leader of the dreaded "Simbahan Group," remnants of the drug pushing group were killed during an encounter with police on Monday.

Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay identified the fatalities as brothers Lazaro and Severino Malabanan, and Gelacio Simbahan, all were residents of Barangay Wawa where the encounter took place.

Magtibay said Lazaro was the sixth most wanted man in Batangas province, with P75,000 on his head.

He was wanted for several cases of murder, drug peddling and kidnapping.

Just last week, Cavite police collared the alleged gang leader Benito Simbahan and eight others in their lair in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The group was believed to be involved in big-time drug pushing, kidnapping and carnapping in the Southern Tagalog region.

Investigation showed that an informant alerted a nearby police station about the presence of the three who were believed to be visiting their families in the area. Magtibay said the suspects apparently went into hiding after the arrest of their leader.

Magtibay said he immediately dispatched a team to go after the group.

Police sighted the group walking towards a grassy area after trailing them for about an hour.

When one of the suspects noticed that they were being tailed, they quickly pulled out their guns and fired at the arresting officers.

The police were forced to retaliate, resulting in a 30-minute gunfire.

After the shootout, the three were dead on the spot.

Recovered from the crime scene were a baby armalite rifle, one .45-caliber pistol, one fragmentation grenade and one falsified police badge.

Magtibay said the incident would further cripple the syndicate's operation in Southern Tagalog.

He said they are still conducting pursuit operations to completely dismantle the criminal group.

In Legazpi City, drug busters on Saturday arrested another prominent drug pusher.

City Mayor Noel Rosal, who headed the buy-bust operation, identified the suspect as Joseph Seroriales, 41, of Purok 3, Barangay Pigcale.

Among the items seized from Seroriales were four pieces of small transparent plastic sachets with crystalline powder believed to be methamphetamine chloride or shabu; two pieces of plastic sachets containing suspected to contain shabu; a pack of cellophane plastic used in packing shabu, two fan knives, other shabu paraphernalia, and a .22-caliber pistol with three live ammunitions that Seroriales used in poking at the barangay police he encountered a few days earlier.

Police said Seroriales is the 16th drug suspect that they have arrested since January this year.

He said they have filed at least 14 cases in court.

During last year's drive, police said two of the cases they filed only reached the City Fiscal's Office and were not accepted due to lack of evidence or improper apprehension as they presented only the residues of shabu and therefore underweight.

Police claimed that in securing for a search warrant alone, their operation sometimes gets burned out and their plan sometimes leaks out. *Marlon Ramos and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Calabarzon cops in hot water for drug use

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Nine members of the Calabarzon police are facing dismissal charges after the final results of the drug tests conducted within the region revealed that they were positive for using shabu (methamphethamine hydrochloride).

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said the final results of the laboratory examinations done by the regional crime laboratory office had already been submitted to the Office of the Regional Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force.

Caringal named the suspected drug users as SPO1 Gandioso Reyes, PO3 McArthur Quijano and PO3 Rebecca Bautista from Cavite police; Laguna policemen SPO1 Jaime Cuaycong, PO2 Edgardo Carandang, PO1 Feliciano Gonzales Jr.; Batangas police officers PO2 Mark Anthony Bugayong and PO1 Alex Lagma; and Quezon policeman PO1 Rico Gutierrez.

Caringal said the police officers would also undergo rehabilitation and therapy.

He said he had ordered all provincial directors of the region to continue submitting the lists of suspected police personnel engaged in illegal drug use and protecting drug syndicates.

"This is just a part of our serious campaign against illegal drugs. Before we clean out the streets of drug peddlers, we should clean first the house of those who should stop this social menace. Police scalawags have no place in this region," Caringal told the INQUIRER.

The screening of applicants for police service was marred with anomaly after police found out that some applicants used falsified Civil Service Professional Eligibility records.

Some of his personnel noticed dubious facts on the application papers of some applicants, said screening committee chair Senior Supt. Napoleon Cachuela.

When they checked with the records of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), they found out that some names of the applicants were not in the master list of examinees.

Cachuela said applicants Jouie Amarillas, Fulgencio Moren and Ronilo Basco claimed that they took the civil service exams early this year.

However, CSC Director Agnes Padilla disclosed that the names of the three were not included on their registry of eligibles.

"We will conduct an investigation into this case to pinpoint those responsible for this act of deceit. I also warn all police applicants to refrain from resorting to any kind of deception if they really want to serve the country," Cachuela said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NEWS UP THERE

BEN MOSES EBREO

A Mumbaki, native priest in Barangay Julongan, Kiangan Ifugao, reads the INQUIRER during a break in the rice ritual intended to bring back traditional ways of Ifugao farming to restore the condition of the rice terraces.

Lotto used as 'jueteng' cover in Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Are lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office being used by gambling lords as cover for jueteng operations?

This was asked here as operations of the illegal numbers game went unabated in major towns in the province for the past three weeks.

Police officials insisted that bet collections reported by residents were those for the PCSO's lotto game.

On Monday, Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, Nueva Vizcaya police director, told Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani that the reported jueteng operations had been stopped, while other activities were part of the PCSO lottery.

But just as police officials were bragging about the supposed eradication of jueteng in the province, it was business as usual for the bet collectors.

Residents said bet collectors, as part of the disguise, use bet sheets with markings of "PCSO lotto." They usually carry with them lotto cards.

Winning numbers were reportedly being drawn twice daily, with the second draw derived from the first two numbers of the PCSO lotto's winning number combination for the day.

Jueteng dayta, us-usarenda lang nga cover ti lotto. Apay, adda kadi bola ti agsapa? (That's definitely jueteng; operators only use lotto as cover. Why, is there a lotto draw in the morning?) asked a resident.

On Tuesday, bet collectors were spotted in downtown Bayombong and near the provincial capitol.

Last week, Agbayani gave Manubay until June 27 to stop the operations of jueteng, after residents gave to the governor jueteng bet sheets, which were seized from a bet collector.

Agbayani said it was very embarrassing that jueteng operated when provincial officials were boasting that Nueva Vizcaya had been cleared of the illegal numbers game.

In early March, police announced that the province was "jueteng-free," despite its short-lived recurrence here in February. Their reports prompted provincial officials to commend them for their anti-jueteng stand.

But jueteng had staged another comeback for the past three weeks, which again made the police the subject of criticism from residents.

The INQUIRER learned that renewed jueteng operations here were being managed allegedly by a prominent politician's son, with winning number combinations drawn twice daily.

Manubay said the PCSO's game, which is legal, might have been mistaken for jueteng.

"I don't think jueteng will ever exist again here (in Nueva Vizcaya) because it will be a losing venture for gambling lords. People will not bet because they have gotten used to life without jueteng," he said.

He also debunked claims of Task Force Jericho that "guerrilla operations" of jueteng had persisted in some towns here.

"We hear a lot of these reports, rumors (that jueteng operates), but they have not been proven. Even (TF) Jericho has not arrested a bet collector," he said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Trader shot dead in front of own home

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Three unidentified men shot dead a businessman here on Monday night in front of the gate of his home in Purok 2, Barangay Batinguel in this city.

Ramon Dy, 47 and owner of an agrivet store here, suffered bullet wounds in the chest and arms, said Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete police chief.

Barot said that before the victim died in the hospital, Dy was able to tell the police investigators about the possible motive and identities of the persons who might have wanted him killed.

Two persons witnessed the victim's testimony to the police, he added.

The police officer, however, refused to say what Dy had said except that the killing was most likely triggered by a family dispute.

He said he was "98 percent" sure that the gunmen were hired killers and were not from Dumaguete.

Initial police investigation showed that the suspects on board a motorcycle tailed Dy, who was on his way home at about 11:30 p.m. after attending an oath-taking ceremony of the newly formed Rotary Club of Dumaguete Central. He was just sworn-in as president of the club.

While Dy was waiting for the gate to be opened, one of the gunmen got off from the motorcycle and shot the victim at close range.

The victim was rushed to a local hospital but died more than an hour later.

Lightning kills 5 farmers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Five farmers were killed after they were hit by a lightning in Barangay Liberty, Tampakan, South Cotabato on Monday.

Tampakan social welfare officer Elsie Frugalidad identified the victims as Editho Balaba Sr., his 19-year-old son Editho Jr., Salvador Gunday and his wife Charina, and Amado Hortillano.

The Balabas and Gundays were sorting out tobacco leaves inside a barn when they were hit by the lightning.

Hortillano, a farmer from a nearby Barangay San Isidro, was plowing his farm when it rained. He rushed to the barn to take shelter.

Except for the elder Balaba, the victims were declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Editho Sr. died later. *Aquiles Zonio and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ombudsman orders NBI to implement dismissal of 5 agents

CEBU CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas (OMB-Visayas) has ordered National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco to implement the dismissal of five agents involved in the bungled anti-drug operation in December that left five resort workers wounded.

In an order dated June 24, the OMB-Visayas also directed Wycoco to carry out the six-month suspension of lawyer Romulo Manapsal, NBI director for Central Visayas.

Upon receiving his copy, Wycoco is given five days to implement the order signed by Director Virginia Palanca-Santiago of OMB-Visayas.

Manapsal and the five agents were investigated for the strafing of the van boarded by workers of the Plantation Bay Resort who were mistaken by the NBI agents for illegal drug dealers.

Manapsal was found guilty of simple misconduct and was ordered suspended for six months after it was established that 14 confidential agents (CAs) participated in the botched operation. An earlier directive of Wycoco already scrapped the use of CAs in NBI operations.

The five agents were found administratively guilty of grave misconduct and were ordered dismissed from the service.

NBI agent Angelito Magno and special investigators Arnel Pura, Danilo Garay, Rey Tumalon and Teodoro Saavedra were also permanently barred from holding any position in the government.

They are also facing criminal charges of multiple frustrated murder and double attempted murder before the Regional Trial Court in Mandaue City, Cebu.

The resort workers were on board an L300 van and were on their way home after attending a Christmas party on Dec. 13 when NBI agents blocked them in Barangay Looc, Mandaue.

The agents on board two vehicles fired at and chased the van for 2 km up to Barangay Banilad, Cebu City.

The van was forced to stop after its driver, Michael Monsod was hit and its tires were busted. The van was hit with at least 72 bullets fired from firearms of different calibers.

Five of the six workers were wounded. Aside from Monsod, wounded were Sunshine Gregorio, Ninette Castillon, Carlos Cajoles and Don Enabe.

Only Alfie Fernandez emerged unscathed from the attack.

The incident prompted a congressional inquiry by the Committee on Civil, Political and Human Rights chaired by Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales. *Suzzane Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Families of slain activists file complaint before CHR

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Seventy-one days after the killing of two activists, their families and colleagues have filed a formal complaint at the Commission on Human Rights.

The two, Eden Marcellana, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, and Eddie Gumanoy, chair of Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK), were killed while on a fact-finding mission in Oriental Mindoro last April.

Orly Marcellana, husband of Eden and secretary general of Kasama-TK; Maria Gumanoy, wife of Eddie; Irein Cuasay, acting secretary general of Karapatan-ST, and Christine de la Cruz, a survivor-witness filed the complaint yesterday to push for its investigation of the killing.

They also presented affidavits of the survivor-witnesses and other documents related to the incident.

The complaint called for a comprehensive and transparent investigation of the case, the pullout of the 204th Infantry Brigade from Mindoro, giving punishment to Col. Jovito Palparan Jr. and removing him from military service, among others.

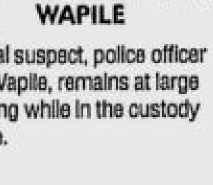
Commissioner Jaime Hechanova, CHR director for NCR, and Commissioner Eligio Mallari, director for Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Bicol Regions, instead talked to the group in the absence of Officer in Charge Dominador Calamba, who was in Cotabato.

Mallari questioned why the group was still filing a case at the CHR when an investigation was already being conducted by the Department of Justice. Cuasay noted that in an earlier talk with Calamba, they found out that the CHR had cleared Palparan, former commanding officer of the 204th Infantry Battalion based in Oriental Mindoro.

Calamba had said that Palparan had been cleared since no complaints were filed against him. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

IT IS exactly 415 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood.



WAPILE

The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

3 lawmen linked to kidnap-slay fired

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Three police officers, including the supposed mastermind in the killing and foiled kidnapping of a businesswoman in Calamba City, were permanently dismissed from service for grave misconduct and serious neglect of duty.

They all belonged to the Mimaropa Regional Police Office (MRPO) that covers the island-provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.

Mimaropa police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid identified those dismissed as PO2 Armando Macaraeg, assigned at the regional headquarters in Camp Vicente Lim; PO2 Fernando Hernandez of the Palawan Police Office; and PO1 Alexander Carillo of the Regional Mobile Group.

The three went on absence without official leave for over six months.

Lapinid said the move was part of MRPO's latest purge of police scalawags in the office.

He said he had also ordered the demotion from rank and suspension of seven other policemen.

For the first quarter of the year, six officers have been suspended and demoted, Lapinid added.

Macaraeg had gone into hiding after being implicated as the leader of a group of policemen who shot dead 32-year-old Jean Abalos in Barangay Pansol on Dec. 3, 2002.

Investigation showed that Macaraeg, together with three other officers who were detailed at the Regional Mobile Group in Los Baños town, were on board a Mitsubishi Lancer when they blocked the car of Abalos, who was on her way to her parent's house.

Sensing that the group would do her harm, Abalos immediately tried to pull back, but her car's rear tires were caught in the mud.

The suspects then opened fire at the hapless victim who died from several bullet wounds on her chest.

Police caught one of Macaraeg's companions hours after the incident.

Two other suspects yielded to police authorities after a successful negotiation. They are now detained at the Laguna provincial jail in Sta. Cruz town.

"We will never condone the ill-advised activities of our policemen. Police should never be a part of a problem but rather be part of the solution to our country's problems," Lapinid said.

Despite Macaraeg's dismissal, relatives of the victim were not contented with the development.

They insisted that the decision to sack the alleged kidnapper-cop came at a snail's pace.

"We're glad to hear the news. But why only now? Macaraeg has been on Awol from the time of my sister's murder. He has been wanted since then. I don't know if it would remove his connections (in the police service), "Joseph Abalos lamented.

Joseph, the victim's older brother, said they would be more delighted if the police could put Macaraeg behind bars.

He said they are wondering why the suspect continues to elude arrest despite continued operations.

He added that he had received reports that the suspect was still receiving his salary, even after he had gone on Awol.

He said Macaraeg's Awol was conspicuously antedated.

Lapinid brushed off the allegations, saying "Macaraeg has not received any financial benefits since January."

He also reiterated that the suspect was discharged because of his delinquency from the service and not on the merits of the criminal charge against him.

A source from a Mimaropa office said Macaraeg's Awol was indeed antedated a week before the incident.

The source added that a certain Mrs. Macaraeg was able to get the suspect's salary and other cash benefits until December through a special power of attorney.

"We are doing our share to help the Abalos family. The case is already in the courts. Let justice take its course," Lapinid said.

He said he immediately ordered the dismissal proceeding against the suspects after he took over the office from former police director Senior Supt. Medardo Apacible last April 25.

Joseph said the criminal case against the suspects is still with the prosecutor's office in Calamba and awaiting a decision to find out if there is probable cause.

Abalos, whose family is engaged in the construction business, was the second victim of criminal elements in the family.

In 1997, a younger brother was abducted also in the same place. But her brother was able to escape hours later, after the suspects left him inside a nipa hut in Nagcarlan town, some 30 km from their house.

The police arrested the suspects at the South Luzon Expressway during pursuit operations.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Forest guards fail to stop illegal logging

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

SIBULAN, Negros Oriental—Illegal cutting of trees in the watershed area has continued even if members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) are now the forest guards.

Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia said legal and psychological problems are affecting the effectiveness of the eight RPA-ABB members hired by the municipality in October 2001.

He said the group, called "Bantay Lasang," does not have the legal personality to arrest any violator of forestry laws. If they catch someone cutting down trees, Renacia said the Bantay Lasang members would have to report this either to the police, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the Philippine National Oil Co.

Renacia said the group was also hesitant to force the issue for fear of being alienated from the "masses" especially with the New People's Army (NPA) accusing them of working for the government.

The mayor said he had endorsed to the provincial government the group's recommendation that livelihood projects be implemented in the mountains to give hinterland villagers an alternative and legal source of living.

He said the municipality have no resources to implement the recommendations.

Still, he said he was not bent on terminating the services of the group because the main reason in hiring them, to maintain peace and order in the mountain, had been achieved.

Meantime, he said the DENR and PNOC should deal with the problem.

Arnold Nalam, PNOC head of the environmental division, said their security officer advised the PNOC forest guards to stay away from the mountain due to the presence of NPA rebels.

Lack of funds have also hampered DENR forest guards from intensifying their campaign against illegal forest activities.

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ROUNDUP

Bomb threat in DSWD

COTABATO CITY—Some 10 regional employees of the Department of Social Welfare and Development went into panic when an unidentified man phoned in on Saturday to warn that a bomb would explode at the building located inside the ARMM Complex. Sarah Taha, DSWD director for Central Mindanao, said her employees were doing overtime work when one of them got a call from a male voice warning that a bomb would explode anytime. Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police chief, said after having deployed his men to check and secure the area of a possible bomb attack, the threat was nothing but a hoax. But he added that there was still a need for the guards to be always on the alert.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hailstones on Tuguegarao

TUGUEGARAO CITY—For the first time in years, it rained hailstones for 10 minutes on Friday in this city. Hailstones as big as play marbles made noise on house roofs and concrete pavements. Children enjoyed gathering the hailstones but they melted right away on their palms. Old-timers said the hailstones augured progress for Cagayan, which celebrated last week the 420th year of the establishment of its civil government.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Threats on media

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A Pampanga correspondent of a national tabloid received death threats on the heels of writing reports on the alleged failure of Senior Supt. Sunny Magpayo, the former security chief of Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo, in stopping illegal drug trade and holdups in Mabalacat. Ashley Manabat of "Hot News" said he received the threats on Thursday through letters delivered to the Pampanga News, where he writes a column, and to the office of Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales. Also on Thursday, a group of men threw two Molotov cocktail bombs at the facade of the Porac Bank branch in Mabalacat. The bank is one of the sponsors of the news and commentary program "Alas Kuatro Na" on dwGV-AM, which Manabat co-hosts with Caesar Lacson. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Aeta village reclaims traditions

By Allan Macatuno
Morong, Bataan

NESTLED on rugged hills in Morong, Bataan, Sitio Kanawan is home to more than 40 Aeta families belonging to the Magbikin tribe, whose culture and traditions are gradually vanishing because of integration and modernity.

Their ability to selectively accept change and retain some of their cultural practices has been greatly influenced by their interaction with the Tagalog *unat* (straight-haired).

Despite this, the elders among the Kanawan Aeta are not easily giving up their identity as they call on the younger generation to relive and preserve their unique ways of living. They said the Kanawan community has a relatively young population. The senior population is quite small and longevity is short.

Alarmed that a large number of their community members no longer wear their "color-coded" *bahag* (g-string) and rarely speak the Magbikin language, elders of Kanawan recently convened their community to retell the origin of their tribe, including the traditional rituals that are slowly vanishing.

Among the threatened Magbikin practices is the wedding rite, which they call *"Lango-lango."* And for more than a decade now, the Kanawan Aeta, particularly the young members, have never seen a couple among them performing the *"Lango-lango."*

No historical accounts of this wedding practice have been published, and only the elders could give the details, said Edmund de Jesus, social development officer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) ecology center.

'Lango-lango'

According to Eulalio Malicsi, 70, an elder and former Kanawan chieftain, the term *"Lango-lango"* means "church" or a place of worship where the groom's relatives would put the bride after they have successfully taken her from her parents. The bride stays in the church while waiting for the groom to arrive.

But before the groom finally finds his bride, he has to prove his worth and strength by facing her loved one's relatives, who are armed with bolos and bows and arrows as they tightly guard the church to prevent him from coming in, Malicsi said.

He said that if the groom managed to win over the bride's relatives without hurting anyone of them, he was entitled to take his bride out of the church and start their married life.

Describing *"Lango-lango"* as a "sacred ceremony," Malicsi said the old Magbikin tradition required monetary offering or *amba* on the part of the groom and his parents, depending on how much was asked by the parents.

This type of offering comes after performing the wedding rite. The husband is obliged to give his *amba* (sometimes called *bandi*) to his wife's parents as a sign of kindness and respect, Malicsi said.

He noted that during the time of their ancestors, parents were the ones choosing the person who would marry their daughter or son.

"Before, it was taboo for us to marry a non-tribal member, but this tradition was broken in 1977 when the daughter of an old chieftain married a lowlander. Afterwards, some Aetas followed this practice," Malicsi said.

He said this was one of the reasons *"Lango-lango"* has been slowly forgotten.

Performing the ceremony takes just more than 10 minutes. The groom wears the traditional *bahag*, while the bride is dressed in *pasiling* or *sarong*. Other members of the tribe participate through singing and dancing.

Juanita Malunic, 80, an elder, said the last time their tribe had witnessed the ritual was 10 years ago. She said the Kanawan Aeta, especially those with non-Aeta wives or husbands, preferred civil wedding to the *"Lango-lango"* because they adopted the lowlanders' practices, she said.

During the village fiesta in May, a couple decided to get married by performing the ritual before their guests.

In his book, "Bridge-builder in Our Midst," Lawrence Ong, a social worker, said "a tribe scattered and hungry becomes weak to care for its own culture."

Well-loved by many Kanawan Aeta, Ong, former Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran (Kaisa) vice president, had been helping Aeta families since 1992. He died of liver cancer in 2001.

Founded in 1987, Kaisa is a Chinese-Filipino organization aimed at bridging a mutual understanding toward an integrated Philippine society.

Ong cited for example that the Kanawan Aeta men and boys had stopped wearing the g-string, except when they were paid to participate in the filming of movies.

CRESENCIA and Milo Malunic prepare for a traditional Magbikin wedding rite called "Lango-lango" in Sitio Kanawan in Morong, Bataan.
ALLAN MACATUNO

Symbol of indecency

"The *bahag* has become a symbol of indecency, illiteracy and poverty," Ong wrote. "The older Aeta seldom speak their native dialect. Eventually, an indigenous dialect will be fully replaced by the lowland language that cannot help a tribe effectively and efficiently communicate its culture," he added.

He said, however, some aspects of a culture must be removed and others retained. He said the Kanawan Aeta should retain and enhance their traditions that "promote basic human values as well as remind a community of its cultural identity and heritage."

"So much problems, so much to be done for such a small community. Surely something sustaining has to and can be started soon so that the Morong Aeta tribe will not get smaller, physically and culturally," Ong wrote.

In 1996, Kaisa provided P20,000 for the repair of the water system of Kanawan and the construction of a stage and fence of its primary school. It also found a donor who gave P3,600 for the school expenses of the first Kanawan Aeta boy to graduate from elementary school.

Kaisa continues to help the Kanawan Aeta by searching for buyers for their wild honey.

Kanawan is a 165-hectare indigenous community located at the foot of the Bataan Natural Park (BNP). Members of the Magbikin tribe are scattered in 19 sites in the Bataan Peninsula. The biggest concentration of the tribe, at 49 families, is found in Kanawan.

Kanawan is inaccessible to vehicles and can be reached after a 45-minute walk from the nearest road at the foot of the BNP.

Before their settlement in Kanawan, the Aeta natives used to freely live and roam the densely forested mountains of Morong.

When the 25,400-hectare BNP reservation was established in 1945 by the Commonwealth government, the Aeta families were resettled in Sitio Lemon. In 1979, Lemon was converted into the Philippine Refugee Processing Center. Displaced, the families retreated and found a new home in Kanawan.

The village was declared a Negrito reservation area through Proclamation No. 192 in November 1987 for the exclusive use and benefit of the Aeta.

De Jesus said he was planning to include the Kanawan Aeta in the indigenous peoples development plan of the SBMA. "As of now, the SBMA has nothing to do with the Kanawan Aeta, but as a social development officer, I am trying to help them in their ancestral claim," he said.

From alluring Aurora to interesting Iba

By Amadis Ma.Guerrero
Contributor

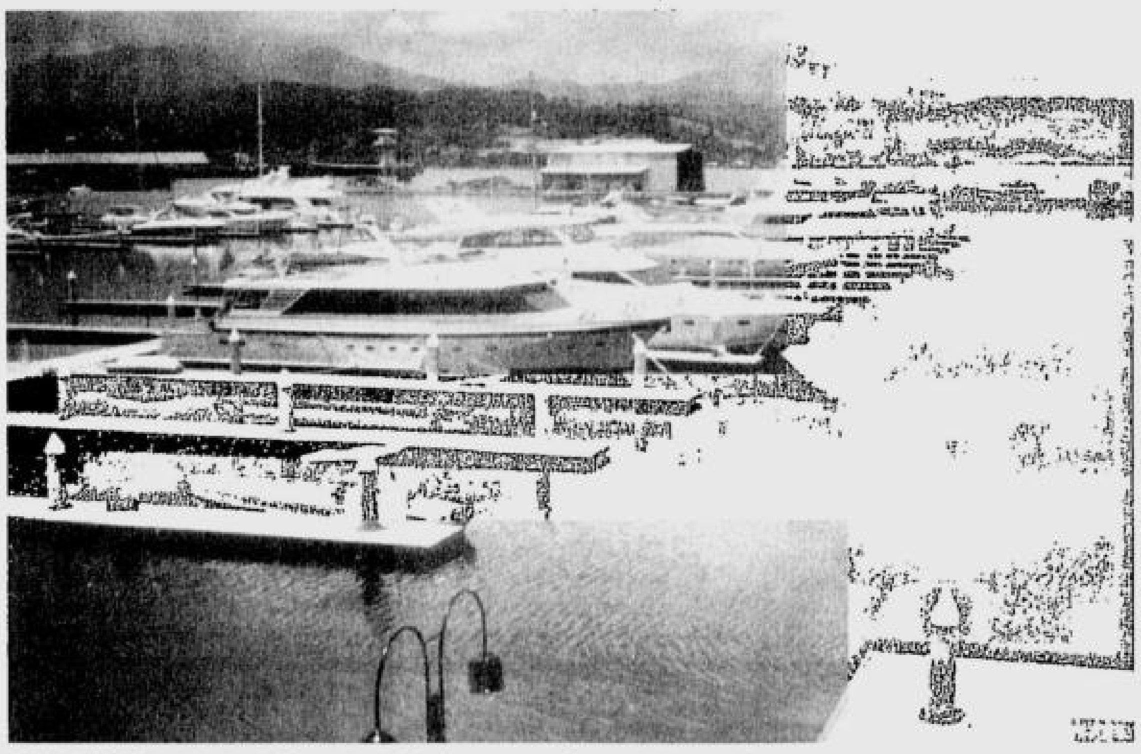
ALLURING Aurora, formerly part of Southern Tagalog, is now the newest province of Central Luzon, courtesy of President Macapagal-Arroyo who is, incidentally, from the region.

The move was not entirely unexpected as Aurora, once a subprovince of Quezon, actually has closer ties with "nearby" Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija than "faraway" Lucena City, capital of Quezon.

Aurora is a rustic and pastoral province, known for windsurfing. A river runs through the capital of Baler, bracketed by coconut-palm trees and outrigger pump boats, and backdropped by the Sierra Madre.

In Baler is a pleasant pension house, Bay's Inn, where I would sometimes spend the Holy Week, lazing around and reading on the benches of the open-air restaurant and watching the throng of families.

The journey to Aurora is a treat in itself, passing through the Aurora Memorial National Park, with its zigzag, well-maintained forest cover, spring waters, and flora and fauna.


THE SUBIC Bay Yacht Club at the Subic Freeport, a former US naval base.
AMADIS. MA. GUERRERO

Entry point to the national park is Cabanatuan, where Gen. Antonio Luna was assassinated by soldiers of President Emilio Aguinaldo in 1899. There is a monument of the valiant but hot-tempered hero outside the convent house where he fell.

Cabanatuan is also where the late, great Tagalog novelist Lazaro Francisco (perennially bypassed by the National Artist awards committee), originally from Orani, Bataan, settled down. A historical marker of the writer stands before the school named after him.

A nice resort just outside the city proper is April's Rainbow, owned by a physician.

When in Tarlac City, visit the Aquino Museum in Luisita Park. It is a trip down recent history, and among its features is a meticulous recreation of the martyred hero's Fort Bonifacio cell.

Nearby is the Microtel Inn & Suites where the staffers, upon request, might take you on a tour of the Luisita Golf and Country Club, and clubhouse. Not included in the tour is a visit to the homes of former President Corazon Aquino, Kris Aquino and the Cojuangcos.

In interesting Iba, the capital of Zambales, are found many resorts. May I recommend Sand Valley, owned by a prominent local family, the Farins. The atmosphere here is homey, and the interiors are filled with antiques. The same can be said for Ciudad Clementino resort in Paombong, Bulacan.

Pampanga has its Clark Special Economic Zone, with Mimosa and Fontana, and their high-end villas and water parks.

Mt. Arayat looms over the province. So if you want something more natural, try the Mt. Arayat National Park.

In Bataan, the hero province, we have the Mt. Samat tribute to the fallen soldiers of World War II, the Dambana ng Kagitingan and the resorts along Bagac Bay, with their big, wide beaches.

Cap your tour of Central Luzon with a journey to the Biak-na-Bato National Park in San Miguel de Mayumo in Bulacan. You have not been to Bulacan unless you have experienced Biak-na-Bato, where the atmosphere—cool, mountainous and verdant, with rivers, streams and caves—is so different from the generally flat terrain of the province.

Big task for witness protection program

DESPITE a limited budget, the government will continue to give protective custody to all witnesses under the witness protection program (WPP) until the termination of all cases where their testimonies are crucial.

Particular attention will be given to 58 "high-risk witnesses" who will testify in at least 101 kidnap-for-ransom cases filed against the Abu Sayyaf and the rebellion charge against detained Moro National Liberation Front Chair Nur Misuari.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida and Cielito Lino Luyon, witness protection program director, said that even if the program's P82-million annual budget were doubled, the amount would still fall short of addressing the program's operational needs in protecting 368 government witnesses now in its custody.

Calida and Luyon were guests during the recent national convention of the National Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP) at the Baguio Convention Center in Baguio City.

Calida, fresh from heading a fact-finding mission in the killing and abduction of two human rights workers in Oriental Mindoro, said since the program's inception in September 1991, 2,226 witnesses had been accepted into the WPP.

High price

He said the program had helped secure 451 cases of conviction, but he admitted that the cost of maintaining their security and hiding their identities was "very high."

"We need to give them food, shelter, allowances and escorts," he said. "Imagine the staggering cost needed to secure these witnesses."

He refused, however, to divulge the average amount spent on a witness, saying the figures are confidential just like the identities of the witnesses.

Luyon, a lawyer, said the program was exerting much effort to protect the 58 "high-risk witnesses" involved in eight big kidnapping cases and one rebellion charge now being tried in various courts.

He said the witnesses were classified as such because of the danger posed to their lives after deciding to testify for the government.

Moving on

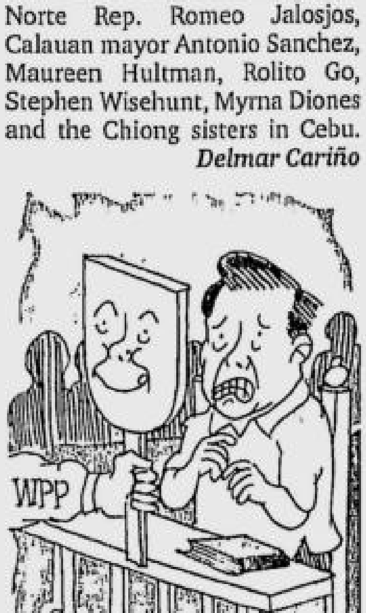
"In fact, we have to relocate some of the witnesses to ensure their safety," he said.

Luyon said the testimonies of these witnesses would play a major role in the termination of these big cases.

Records shown the INQUIRER reveal 101 individual crimes involved in the cases. The Abu Sayyaf has the biggest number of cases with 52 in the Tumahubong kidnapping in Isabela City in Basilan on March 20, 2000; 20 cases in the Dos Palmas kidnapping in Palawan on May 27, 2001; and 21 cases in the Sipadan Island kidnapping of 21 foreigners on April 23, 2000.

Despite problems, Luyon said the program had helped secure convictions in 14 "high-profile cases." Among them were the cases of former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, Calauan mayor Antonio Sanchez, Maureen Hultman, Rolito Go, Stephen Wisehunt, Myrna Diones and the Chiong sisters in Cebu.

Delmar Cariño



NPAs face 'optimum' gov't counterattacks

From page A1

implementation of an existing agreement on safety and immunity guarantees for NDF leaders forged for the peace talks.

"We will deal with this resurgent NPA threat comprehensively," the President said a day after NPA rebels killed 13 soldiers in an ambush in New Bataan, Compostela Valley. On Thursday, 11 militiamen, five soldiers and a soldier's wife were killed when rebels attacked an Army patrol base in Oras, Eastern Samar.

Expressing concern over the new NPA attacks, Ms Macapagal said the guerrillas were exploiting the fact that government troops were spread over several fronts, as a result of the anti-terrorism campaign in Mindanao.

"This means that in some places, the police, the [local government units] and the larger communities themselves must take up the slack and engage in a larger task of vigilance and alertness," she said.

Ms Macapagal directed the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (Cocis) to "determine the optimum deployment of military and civilian resources to meet the many-sided threat, in a manner that will allow a flexible response to these contingencies."

She directed the Cocis, which includes Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, to recommend "effective politico-diplomatic measures" that would expose the NPA's supposed ties with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In an interview with the INQUIRER by mobile phone, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal lauded the guerrillas that engaged government troops in Compostela Valley.

"They have successfully upheld the red banner of the revolution. They all deserve a zealous salutation from all NPA fighters for a remarkable display of courageous gallantry in action," he said.

Rosal said he was urging the "128 Red fighter fronts" across the country to also conduct tactical offensives on government forces in their areas. He made the same call in an interview over dzMM.

"Every additional firearm from the enemy arsenal means an additional fighter for the growing number of warriors of the revolutionary forces," he told the INQUIRER. "With these waves of positive developments for the cause of the revolution, the GMA-US regime can expect more ... tactical offensives. It only shows that the support of the masses is still strong, contrary to the claims of the military propagandists."

Jasig

Rosal also said that if the exploratory talks in the Netherlands would result in a bilateral ceasefire for the formal resumption of the peace talks between the NDF and the government, the NPA rebels would stop mounting tactical offensives.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. is in the Netherlands conducting back-channel talks to convince the Utrecht-based NDF leaders to return to the negotiating table.

But the President said the resurgence of NPA attacks would necessitate the review of the Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) between the government and the NDF.

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said communist rebels were using the Jasig "as cover for their so-called [peace] consultants to move around" freely.

Bunye said about 100 NDF consultants in the Philippines and abroad had been given immunity from arrest as part of the peace process.

He said it would be up to the Cocis to determine whether the Jasig should be suspended.

Bunye said Malacañang would await De Venecia's report on whether some headway had been achieved toward the resumption of the talks.

Rosal said "sincere peace talks" between the two parties were "what our countrymen have been asking for."

"It now depends on the government," he said, adding:

"But the government's call for the resumption of the peace talks should not be made with a condition for the surrender of the revolutionary forces. GMA will be wishing for the moon."

"But it's hardly possible to believe that GMA's fascist military forces would cease their all-out war policy. So, the fighting will continue."

The Macapagal administration suspended peace negotiations with the NDF in 2001 after guerillas killed Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former Cagayan governor and representative accused by the NPA of committing human rights violations when he was still in the military.

Tactical alliance

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the Armed Forces' chief public information officer, said the NPA's intensified operations in the countryside were proof that its alleged tactical alliance with the secessionist MILF was working again.

Lucero confirmed the alliance, saying that part of the NPA-MILF strategy was for one to conduct attacks while the other lay low.

He cited as an instance the present situation wherein the NPA had stepped up its operations in rural areas while the MILF had "so far been silent."

"They have a strategy: If ever one side goes into silence, the other side attacks. This is actually to prevent the AFP from reorganizing, consolidating and planning effectively against three threat groups," Lucero told reporters, referring to the MILF, NPA and the Abu Sayyaf.

He could not cite recent instances when the two groups combined forces in a single operation against the military.

When asked if the strategy was working, Lucero said: "Definitely it will have an effect on AFP operations because just like what happened this week, we had to pull out a unit from Sulu and transfer it to Samar." He was referring to Thursday's rebel attack in Oras, Eastern Samar. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

Young officer's . . .

From page A1

pursuing the rebels, supposedly led by Roberto Rosete alias Commander Alex of the NPA's Front Committee 20.

But in a press release sent to the INQUIRER, the NPA Merardo Arce Command, which operates in Southern Mindanao, said the rebels who were engaged in the clash belonged to the Ruperto Tuyac Command, a subregional guerrilla unit.

The NPA identified the slain soldiers as Angeles, Privates First Class Ronnie Mariano, Andresito Nogodola, Remegio Recone, Hanover Manansala, Ronald Rendon, Arturo Casabar, Roderick Faisan and Norphy Malabanan, Cpl. Ricardo Shahagun, CAAs Eddie Villagonzalo, Guillermo Helardo and Antonio Avila.

It named the wounded soldiers as Cpl. Eric Milo, Privates First Class Victor Iglesia, Montanier Planas, Daniel Debicais and militiaman Danilo Villaflor.

The NPA said its forces were composed of 36 guerrillas who were moving on foot when they were met by a platoon of soldiers.

It said fighting ensued but a squad of rebels was able to take a better vantage position at the upper portion of the terrain.

Cheerful

Pangilinan said the slain officer, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 2000, was best remembered for his cheerful disposition.

"He was someone who easily smiled. He was a very jolly fellow," Pangilinan said.

This disposition apparently helped Angeles, of Barangay Nandacan in Bautista, Pangasinan, to quickly forge friendships with his peers.

His "mistah," 2Lt. William

ANGELES

Romero, assigned with the Army's 40th IB in Pikit, North Cotabato, said they met during their interview for promotion at Camp Panacan more than a week ago.

"He invited me to visit Baguio in December. I think his wife is due to give birth on that month," Romero told the INQUIRER.

Romero said he and Angeles had agreed to go to Midsayap on June 28 to attend the wedding of another "mistah."

"I was waiting for his text message but didn't get any," Romero said. "I presumed that he was busy with an operation that time."

Col. Rodolfo Obaniana, commander of the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade based in Compostela Valley, said the rebels were part of the three NPA big groups behind the ambush of the 8th Special Forces in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, in November 2001.

That ambush resulted in the death of 18 soldiers. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, Anthony S. Allada and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gay wedding . . .

From page A1

that the couple did not apply for a marriage license.

Only two countries—Canada and the Netherlands—recognize same-sex marriages.

A bill, filed by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo in 2000, appeared to make same-sex marriages valid under a legal arrangement called "domestic partnership." The measure drew sharp criticism from Catholic Church leaders, who said it was against the "Christian faith" and "human nature."

But Angara-Castillo had said the proposed Magna Carta for Gays and Lesbians was not even about same-sex marriage, but aimed to protect the rights of homosexuals and to prevent discrimination against them.

Balagso, who operates a beauty parlor, said their 12-day courtship ended at the altar because Vibangco offered him "sincere love."

Balagso claimed that Vibangco fell for him the moment he saw him on June 16. Vibangco was looking for his friends at the beauty parlor and saw Balagso instead.

Vibangco then visited Balagso the following day, offering flowers and chocolates.

"We (talked) and opened ourselves up by disclosing our previous relationships," Balagso said.

He said Vibangco admitted that he had had six girlfriends and had a three-month relationship with a gay teacher.

He said he eventually gave in to Vibangco's persistence and became his "girlfriend" on June 20.

The proposal

On June 23, Balagso said Vibangco surprised him when he offered marriage "to prove how sincere he was."

He said Vibangco introduced him to his uncles and aunts in their hometown of San Juan.

Balagso admitted that Vibangco's relatives laughed at them when they informed them about their marriage plans.

But after a serious discussion, all but one uncle agreed. That uncle said he would give his approval only if the couple would visit Vibangco's widowed mother in Nueva Ecija.

The couple promised to see Vibangco's mother after the wedding, and the permission was granted.

As they were preparing for the wedding, word spread about town and the news somehow reached Balagso's parents, who were then in Metro Manila. His parents returned to Sinait to verify the news.

Balagso admitted that he had lied to his mother by telling her that the celebration would only be an engagement party. He said he knew that he would be committing a sin by marrying another man. He said he even entertained the thought of backing out.

But his love for Vibangco prevailed, he said.

Love life

"*Romantiko siya* (He is a romantic)," Balagso said, referring to his partner.

Balagso is a former high school varsity athlete. He said he only discovered that he was gay when he was in college in Laoag City.

While in college, he had his first and serious relationship with another man.

Balagso had a scholarship and had good grades but was expelled from his university when he joined protests against tuition increases in 1998. He failed to get his education degree because of the expulsion.

He then took a three-month "hair culture" course in a famous beauty salon in Metro Manila and a two-year computer course in Laoag.

After earning enough money, Balagso put up his own beauty parlor in this town, where he and Vibangco eventually met and fell in love.

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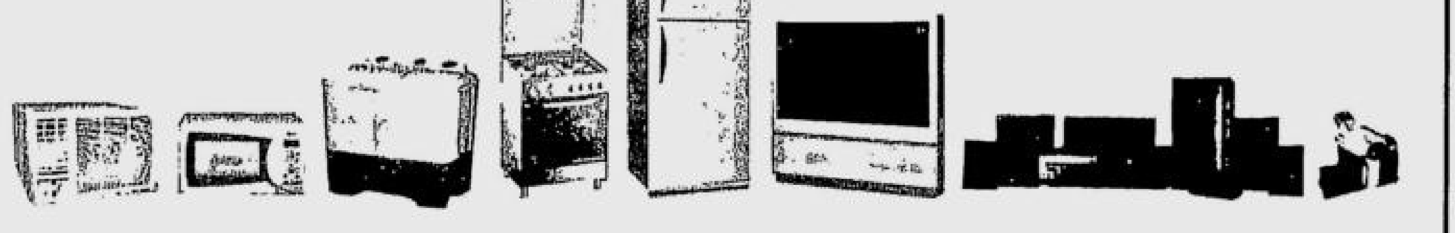

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Sports 'godfather' survives slay try

From page A1

for Go, said she saw two men waiting outside.

Dalaoyan said one man was riding an Enduro-type motorcycle while the other was standing outside the gate. She said that the men immediately sped off in the direction of Pablo Ocampo Street.

Gunshots

Jansen Benjamin, one of the witnesses, said he was on his way to the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine with fellow members of the national judo team when they heard two gunshots.

Benjamin told reporters he and his teammates saw the Adventure's door open and Go's hand frantically waving at them.

"We rushed to the vehicle and saw Go's face bleeding," Benjamin said. "My companions and I immediately brought him to the hospital."

Armando Bayoneto, a taxi driver who also witnessed the assassination attempt, said in a radio interview that he was in the area when he heard the gunshots. He said he saw two men on a motorcycle with Plate No. 777 speed off toward Pablo Ocampo Street.

The heavily tinted Adventure belonged to Go's son, Raffy. Go's own car was reportedly under repair.

Athletics national coach Joseph Sy said Benjamin, Aristotle Lucero and his brother Christopher Lucero rushed Go to the hospital.

Quoting other witnesses, Sy said one man tried to open Go's car on the drivers' side while the sports official was waiting for the security guard to open the gate. Failing to force the door open, the gunman then fired off two shots.

"It's a good thing he locked the door because he seldom locks his car doors," Sy told the INQUIRER.

"Also, his son's car is heavily tinted, which probably explained why he was only hit in the cheeks."

GO Teng Kok's wife faces the media at the Ospital ng Maynila where her husband was brought for treatment following the ambush. ERIK ARAZAS

Go doesn't have a bodyguard but usually employs a driver, who reports to him at around 9 a.m. at the Patafa offices.

Bullet wounds

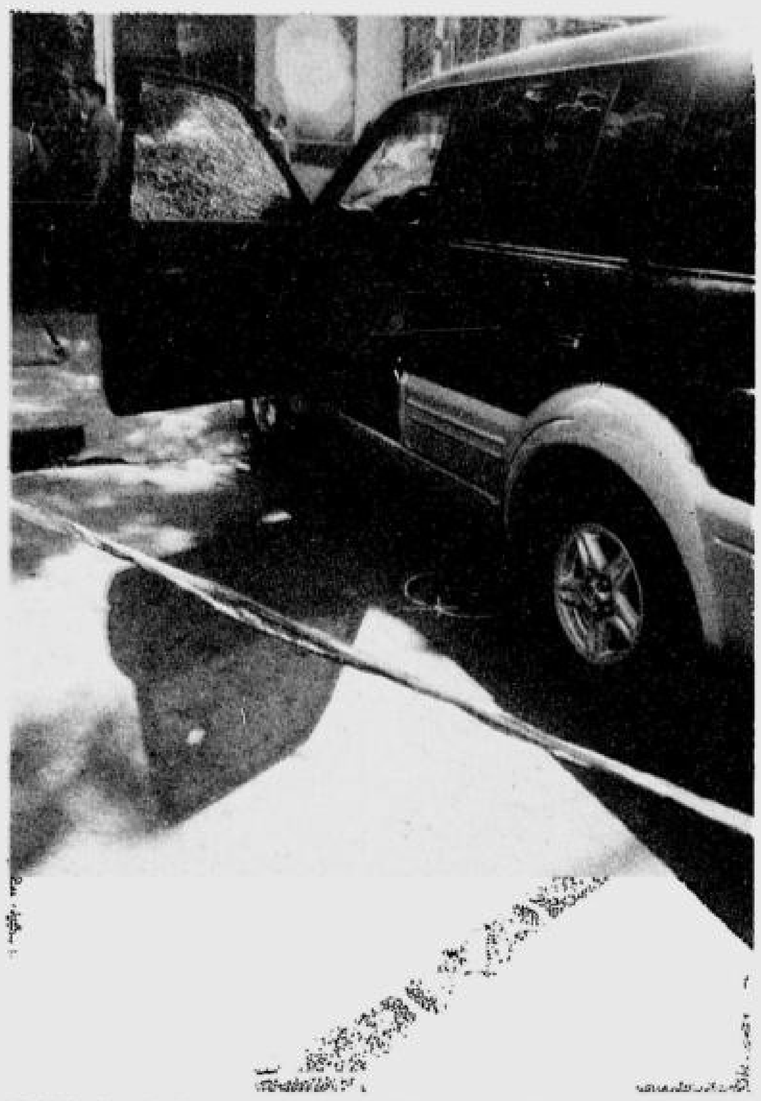
Surgeons Alexander de Veza and Alfred Troncales said Go sustained one bullet wound near his left ear which exited through his left cheek, and another in his right cheek which also exited through his left cheek.

The two said Go, despite his wounds, remained conscious during the rush to the hospital. He even managed to instruct Sy to call his wife Betty using his cell phone, and handed his Rolex watch to the coach.

The doctors said they could not yet determine the extent of damage to Go's face, but said the outspoken athletics chief was in very stable condition after a three-hour operation.

Go has been very vocal about his storied past, including his involvement with shady characters like his sister-in-law Yu Yuk Lai.

But he always maintained that no drug case had ever been filed against him—something that ex-Sen. Ernesto Herrera of Citizen's Drug Watch confirmed in a radio interview.



TWO bullet shells are marked near Mitsubishi Adventure where Go Teng Kok was shot. ERIK ARAZAS

Ospital ng Maynila director Christina Padolina said Go sustained three wounds in the face, because the bullets exited at two points on Go's left cheek. She added that Go suffered shattered cheekbones because of the bullets.

"*Masuwerte pa rin si Mr. Go dahil lumagos yung bala sa mukha niya* (Mr. Go was very lucky because the bullets went through his face)," the hospital director told reporters.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to members of Go's family but they declined to comment at length.

"Our dad has no enemies as far as we are concerned," said Go's youngest son, who refused to be named.

Go, a powerful member of the Philippine Olympic Committee, also figured in publicized feuds with other sports officials.

But ex-police Senior Supt. Reynaldo Jaylo, another member of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said Go had had only minor differences with other sports officials and had lately been quiet.

With reports from AP, AFP

GO Teng Kok's sister waits for news at the Ospital ng Maynila. ERIK ARAZAS

Who wants to stop Go?

From page A1

Jaylo also said Go's attackers seemed to be non-professional hired killers. He noted that Go was shot through the vehicle's window. He said a professional killer would have waited for Go to get out of his car, or lower a window.

Sister-in-law

In 2000, Go allegedly intervened in behalf of his sister-in-law Yu, who was caught in possession of three kilos of shabu on Nov. 7, 1998. She has maintained that the police had framed her, and in fact had also taken from her the following: P1.9 million, $30,000, a Rolex watch and P10 million worth of other jewelry.

In July 2000, she was recaptured inside the casino of Holiday Inn on United Nations Avenue in Manila. She said, however, that she was in fact accompanied by her jail escorts when arrested again by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

That same month, Go visited State Prosecutor Pablo Formaran III at the Department of Justice. But he said then that he did not pressure Formaran to "go slow" on his relative—as reported in the papers. He said he was in fact "begging him to speed up the prosecution, he had told the INQUIRER then.

Yu was convicted on Sept. 25, 2001.

Malacañang yesterday condemned the slay attempt, but said it was up to authorities to investigate Go's alleged links to illegal drugs.

"The President has ordered the PNP to immediately investigate this incident and bring the perpetrators to justice as soon as possible," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Asked if the Palace, which has launched an anti-illegal drug campaign, would look into Go's possible links with illegal drugs since he interceded for the release of Yu, Bunye said: "This is something that should be handled by the PNP and we do not want to muddle the issues. Let the investigators do their job first."

Bunye said the Palace had been aware of "talks but these are just talks. We'll let the investigators do their job."

Metro Manila police chief Reynaldo Velasco said he has assembled a crack team of investigators to track down the suspects.

"We should stop speculations as to what prompted the attempt on the life of Mr. Go until after (police) conclude their investigation of the incident," he said.

"As I have instructed the Manila police, we will not rest until the assassins are placed behind bars."

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong has assigned police Supt. Edgar Danao to work on the case. *With reports from Edson Tandoc Jr. and Juliet Javellana*

2 Marcos mansions lie in ruins, gathering moss

From page A1

second stories.

By the looks of the steel-reinforced posts, the steel beams that support its second floor, the steel trusses that hold its red tile roof, and the two-inch-thick bricks that surround it, the mansion was built to last.

Indeed, this property sequestered after the downfall of the Marcos regime is still standing despite the ravages of political upheaval, looting, neglect and the long-drawn out legal battle over alleged plunder.

Much of the window glass is missing or broken, leaving empty frames in some places and star-shaped holes with sharp edges in others.

The looting peaked shortly after the Marcoses fled the country, but it has yet to fully stop. During the last Holy Week, a caretaker said, persons claiming to be from a charitable foundation tried to strip and haul off the narra panels from a room.

Outside the mansion, plastic cups, junk food wrappers, cigarette butts, and blue, pink and green plastic bags create an odd collage of color on patches of yellow-green grass.

A worn-out child's bicycle is parked atop a heap of stones where there used to be palm fronds.

Inside, orange hoses used to insulate electric wiring jut out of exposed ceilings like the snakes on Medusa's head.

A heap of what look like oversized cotton balls—cushion for beds and sofas, the caretakers say—litters the floor of one room. Black telephone and electric wires slide over moss-covered walls.

In the grand ground floor hall, Philippine maps are pasted on the ceiling, as though proclaiming that this grandiosity that now lies wasting does exist in a country of millions of homeless people.

Grandiose twin

In Barangay Casili in Canlubang, Laguna, on a 24-hectare lot perched on a hill overlooking a golf course, stands what looks like the Parañaque property's twin.

Again, the grandiose design of the sequestered property is easy to see.

Four white structures each standing on areas sufficient for two basketball courts form a giant H. Linking the four structures together are red-tiled walkways wide enough for two cars running on opposite directions.

Each of the two-story structures has a curved flight of stairs linking halls on the ground and second floors, enormous halls that can hold at least 500 people—or the size of the parties that Ferdinand Marcos' family, at the height of its power, was famous for.

The doors to what seem to have been designed as ballrooms are closed, but a peek through the windows reveals parquet flooring chipped off or rotting in various places, pieces of furniture piled atop of one another, and rattan chairs wedged against the windows as apparent barriers.

The drapes have been torn down or simply left for moths to breed in and slowly chew apart.

Doors as wide as 10 refrigerators placed side by side lead to corridors over which hang chandeliers, or what remain of them.

On the walls are green, black and red graffiti, not of protests against the ostentatious display of fading wealth, but of the names of curious visitors to whom the significance of the opulence might have been lost.

A caretaker of the Canlubang property said Imelda Marcos, the late dictator's widow, recently sent a contractor to look the site over. She apparently wanted a fence put up.

The fence, if ever it is built, would be a little late. The looters have come and gone, as shown in the disemboweled ceilings and the pieces of rusting steel that are all that are left of decorative lamps.

The looting has stopped here, but the other pieces of property elsewhere in the country continues to bleed.

PCGG

And the government struggles to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their associates.

The effort started on Feb. 28, 1986, when then President Corazon Aquino, fresh from the People Power revolt that toppled the Marcos dictatorship, issued Executive Order No. 1 creating the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The PCGG was given the specific task of recovering the Marcoses' alleged ill-gotten wealth.

In 2001, the commission issued a report listing the cases it had filed against the Marcoses and their associates. The first case was filed in December 1986; by July 1987, there were 34 more cases.

Of the 35 cases, the PCGG said, "two have been rendered moot with the recovery of the properties involved."

"One was dismissed with finality. One was dismissed without prejudice to its re-filing," it said in a report.

The PCGG also said 37 compromise agreements had been forged by the government and the Marcoses. Of these, 16 are being reviewed.

Seven cases for forfeiture have been filed, including one involving an estimated $656 million in Marcos Swiss deposits. On Sept. 19, 2000, the Sandiganbayan forfeited these deposits in favor of the government.

"All the other forfeiture cases are still pending," the PCGG said.

It said that at least $2 billion in ill-gotten assets had been recovered in 15 years since the filing of the report in 2001, and that proceeds from these were spent on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

But critics say the CARP, the centerpiece program of the Aquino administration, has barely improved the lot of farmers in the countryside.

Sandiganbayan

The PCGG takes pride in its record.

Comparing its recovery efforts with the continuing campaign to hale the Marcoses to court, it said: "In contrast to some counterpart civil cases for recovery, the Ombudsman has either dismissed a number of criminal complaints or has filed motions to withdraw some of those already filed in court.

"The Sandiganbayan has also dismissed some of these criminal cases."

Records of the anti-graft court list 11 cases as dismissed, four others as leading to the Marcoses' acquittal, and eight pending.

Imelda Marcos was convicted in two cases in 1993, during President Fidel Ramos' term. But the Supreme Court reversed these convictions in 1998.

Court records also indicate that taking the Marcoses to court requires more than just brilliant lawyers.

Jovito Salonga, the first PCGG chair, said in an interview with the magazine Free Press when he was still Senate President that no compromise agreement with the Marcoses could substitute for the rule of law.

But the court records show that should the rule of law truly apply, the Marcoses face no serious charge at all.

In several examples, cases were filed despite the findings of government prosecutors and investigators that there was no sufficient evidence yet to do so.

Four of these, docketed as Nos. 22867, 22868, 22869 and 22870, were filed simultaneously on Sept. 15, 1995.

Pecuniary interest

In these cases, the government accused Imelda Marcos of using the Azio-Venzu-Vibur Foundation, Aquamina-Rosalys Foundation and Xandy Wintrop Avertina Foundation in Switzerland to launder ill-gotten wealth from the Philippines.

She was indicted for "having pecuniary interest" in the management of these foundations when she was then minister of human settlements.

But on Sept. 11, 1995, the Sandiganbayan said: "There is no indication as to what the acts of management were, or . . . from where accused . . . was allegedly managing these foundations."

The court ordered the PCGG, Department of Justice and Office of the Solicitor General to produce the evidence on the four cases.

On Oct. 27, 1996, Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Nilo Mariano wrote the court: "We do not have the evidence/documents pertaining thereto."

And the next day, PCGG Director Danilo Daniel wrote that "it has been agreed" that Cases Nos. 22867, 22868 and 22870 should be withdrawn and deferred, and Case No. 22869 amended, "in order that these cases may not be dismissed."

Even without a categorical admission of mistake, this illustrates how tedious and sometimes fruitless is the effort to put the Marcoses on trial.

And as the legal battle drags on, structures like the ones in Parañaque and Canlubang molder on valuable tracts of land.

They stand as monuments to a regime that was convicted and sentenced by a popular uprising on Feb. 25, 1986, and testaments to the changing of political fortunes.

No 'Imeldific' bash when she turns 74 today

IMELDA Marcos will have no "Imeldific" birthday bash when she turns 74 today.

Unlike in 1999 when she marked her 70th birthday with a string of opulent parties reminiscent of the ones she threw during her family's heyday, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos will this time have a quiet celebration with her family and a few friends, according to a close associate.

She is scheduled to hear Mass in Manaoag, Pangasinan, this morning before hieing off to an undisclosed place. All the associate would say was that the birthday girl would not be in Manila.

"She won't have a party," said the associate who asked not to be named. "She will be out of town with a few members of her family and selected friends."

The associate did not say why Imelda would not have a party.

The former first lady reportedly turned down offers from her friends to hold a party for her.

Last year, a group of Marcos loyalists led by Cherry Cobarrubias withdrew support from Imelda. They said she did not fulfill her promise to help the poor despite her wealth.

Imelda is still facing several ill-gotten-wealth cases.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IMELDA MARCOS: Quiet birthday far from Manila. VAL HANDUMON

Book bares violence, drugs in young Kennedy's marriage

From page A1

picked out a name, Flynn, for the son he dreamed of having, Klein reported.

Klein quoted Bessette's fashion industry friends as saying it was known she was a heavy user of drugs, and that Kennedy caught her snorting lines of cocaine with friends at the couple's New York apartment. "You're a cokehead," Kennedy screamed at his wife.

A staff member from Kennedy's political magazine, "George," told of a dinner in which Bessette made at least a half dozen trips to the bathroom, returning to the table with white rings around her nostrils.

"We went from bar to bar, and she wanted to come over to my apartment, but I said no, because I knew it would be an all-nighter," the friend said. "I ... dropped her off at 3 a.m."

The next morning, Kennedy asked why the staffer and his wife were out so late. The staff member replied: "A better question is why your wife didn't want to go home."

Ann M. Freeman, Bessette's mother, did not immediately return a telephone call by the Associated Press for comment on Monday.

The August issue of Vanity Fair magazine contains excerpts from Klein's new book. Most of the information in the book, however, is attributed to unidentified friends of the Kennedy couple.

KENNEDY and his wife were having marital problems and were living apart when they died in an airplane crash in July 1999, according to a new book.

AP

Cheating heart

According to friends, Kennedy also worried that his wife was cheating on him with her old flame, Michael Bergin, a "Baywatch" actor and former model of Calvin Klein underwear.

They continued their affair even after Bessette had moved in with Kennedy, according to Klein, a Vanity Fair contributing editor.

Although Bergin cut off the affair after Bessette's marriage, she continued to taunt her husband with the actor.

Klein said Bergin also revealed the violent nature of Bessette in an incident in which she got angry after seeing him light an ex-girlfriend's cigarette at a bar.

She showed up at Bergin's door and threw two heavy candles through a window and a mirror, shattering both. "Then she knocked my television set and VCR onto the floor and jumped on my VCR and squashed it," Bergin told Klein.

"I ran out of the apartment. I'm very athletic and fast, but she caught up with me and started yelling at me and taunting me, calling me a baby."

Kennedy's friends suspected that something similar had happened to him when he was rushed to an emergency room for an operation to repair a severed nerve. Kennedy said the injury was an accident, although he had told friends that he felt trapped in an abusive relationship.

"Carolyn was like a wild horse," the acquaintance from George told Klein. "She had a trash mouth ... She used to call John a fag all the time."

Public scrutiny drove Bessette into depression, the friend said. She refused to leave their apartment and spent long periods crying, telling friends that she hated "living in a fishbowl."

Klein said Bessette reportedly stormed out of a marital counselor's office when her drug use was raised.

Self-absorption

Two days before Kennedy and Bessette were killed, according to Klein, the couple met for lunch at the Stanhope with Bessette's sister, who persuaded them to fly together to the wedding of Kennedy's cousin, Rory Kennedy, in Massachusetts. Bessette's sister said she would go with them as far as Martha's Vineyard.

Klein said Bessette's self-absorption made her late for the fatal July 16, 1999 plane ride with her husband and her sister, who had arrived at the airport in New Jersey while it was still light.

The plane, piloted by Kennedy, went down in darkness off the coast of Martha's Vineyard near Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Klein quoted a hair colorist named Colin Lively as saying he saw Bessette order a pedicurist to apply her toenail polish three times that day to match a fabric she had brought to the salon.

During the pedicure, her mobile phone rang over and over, Lively told Klein. "What?" she said impatiently into the phone. "I told you I'm getting a pedicure."

Klein said that when Kennedy graduated from flight school, he gave his instructors a photo of himself and inscribed it, in part, with, "People will only care where I got my training if I crash."

Kennedy was 38 and Bessette 33 when they met their tragic end.

Klein is also the author of "All Too Human: The Love Story of Jack and Jackie Kennedy" and "Just Jackie: Her Private Years."

Reports from Reuters and AP

Cambodia PM tagged biggest smoker by UN

From page A1

leaders.

In a national broadcast, Hun Sen said he had received a letter from the United Nations informing him of his puffing status within the global community. The world body also urged him to quit.

"Hun Sen is the biggest smoker among the leaders of the world," the Cambodia premier said, quoting the UN letter. "The UN has asked the prime minister to stop smoking. I am checking to see whether I can do that or not."

Hun Sen once reportedly agreed to quit his habit after being asked to do so by his wife, only to slip back into smoking. A second attempt to kick his nicotine addiction followed after persistent requests from his daughter.

The prime minister admitted he again promised to quit when another daughter delivered him a grandchild.

But again, Hun Sen said the habit had proved too much to break.

"I promised my daughter on her wedding day that I, her father, will stop smoking when she gave birth, and now my granddaughter is 3 years, 5 months and 3 days old," he said.

The United Nations has attempted to enlist the prime minister to join an international effort to stamp out the habit by having Cambodia sign the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.

Forty-one countries and the European Union have signed the treaty, but Hun Sen made no mention of the treaty in his speech on Tuesday.

Cambodia has one of the highest rates of smokers in the world with 60 percent of men puffing away on tobacco.

Cartons of cigarettes were even included in food packages handed out to hungry villagers late last year when a freak combination of drought and floods destroyed much of the annual crop.

AFP

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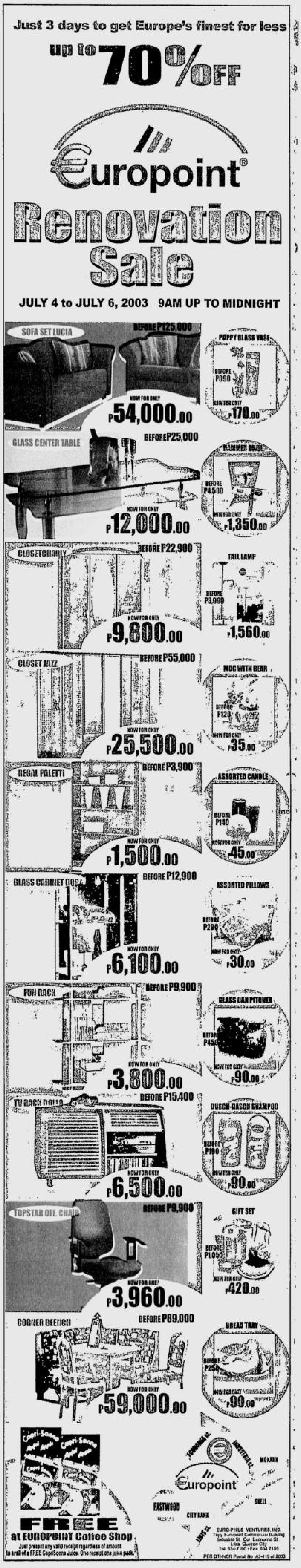

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PER DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-419 of 2003

Armed robbers strike in QC mall; watchman slain in shootout

By Alcuin Papa

A PRIVATE watchman was killed and four others were seriously wounded when they shot it out with suspects who robbed a roving bank teller inside a mall in Quezon City yesterday.

Killed was Gerardo Bernal of the Enriquez Security Agency and detailed as security escort to the Asiatrust Bank. He died at the Fairview General Hospital.

Also wounded were watchmen Philip Quintas, a companion of Bernal; mall guard Constantino Mahilum of the Crescent Security Agency, Pepito Fronda and Agustin Tadeo.

Fronda and Tadeo were rushed to the Malvar General Hospital.

Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza of the Central Police District Investigation Unit said a roving teller of Asiatrust had just withdrawn two duffel bags of money when the robbery occurred at about 11:20 at the ground floor of the Ever Gotesco mall along Commonwealth Avenue.

The teller, accompanied by Bernal and Quintas, had just stepped off an escalator when one of the suspects grabbed the two bags.

When the two watchmen reacted, three men armed with .45 caliber pistols opened fire hitting both of them.

A shootout ensued when mall watchmen tried to stop the suspects who ran toward a side exit.

Terrified shoppers scampered for safety as shots rang out and as bullets shattered some store windows and a glass door of the mall.

The suspects fled aboard a silver Toyota Altis (XFV 405), which was believed stolen.

Police later found the getaway car abandoned at the corner of Catbalogan and Cotabato streets in Barangay Batasan, Quezon City.

Witnesses said they saw six suspects described as in their mid to late 20s board a Starex van and speed away.

Investigators said traces of blood were found in the getaway car.

Bank officials reportedly have refused to say how much was taken in the robbery.

Last month, an Asiatrust bank armored car was also robbed as it was making a collection at the corner of Balete Drive and Aurora Boulevard also in Quezon City.

The police have yet to identify suspects in both robberies.

Avenida closure sparks protests

By Leila Salaverria and Margaux Ortiz

NOT EVERYONE is happy about the "pedestrianization" of Avenida Rizal.

Residents and motorists are up in arms over the planned closure of the national road.

Sources at the Metro Manila Development Authority yesterday said that the Manila council's decision to turn Rizal Avenue into a pedestrian's paradise would sow chaos in the already congested streets of the city.

"If you close a road, and a national one at that, you can't expect anything but traffic gridlock," said an MMDA official, who refused to be identified.

The official added that the city council did not have a permit from the MMDA to close down the avenue, as well as the adjoining Carriedo Street, which has been turned into a vendors' haven.

The source said that the Supreme Court has already ruled that public roads are beyond the commerce of man, and thus cannot be closed to give way to flea markets and the like.

The same decision cites another high court ruling that said mayors do not have the authority to give permits for the use of public property.

On Sunday, Manila conservationist Tina Testa said that Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza's move toward pedestrianization has not proved to be doing Carriedo's vendors any good.

Testa said that she has talked with the vendors who told her that their regular buyers do not buy from them anymore.

"This is because (the buyers) could not bring their vehicles to Carriedo, so they go to places which are more accessible like the malls," Testa said.

Mike Lu, an environmentalist who lives in the area, said that traffic congestion in Rizal Avenue has worsened since the start of the pedestrianization project.

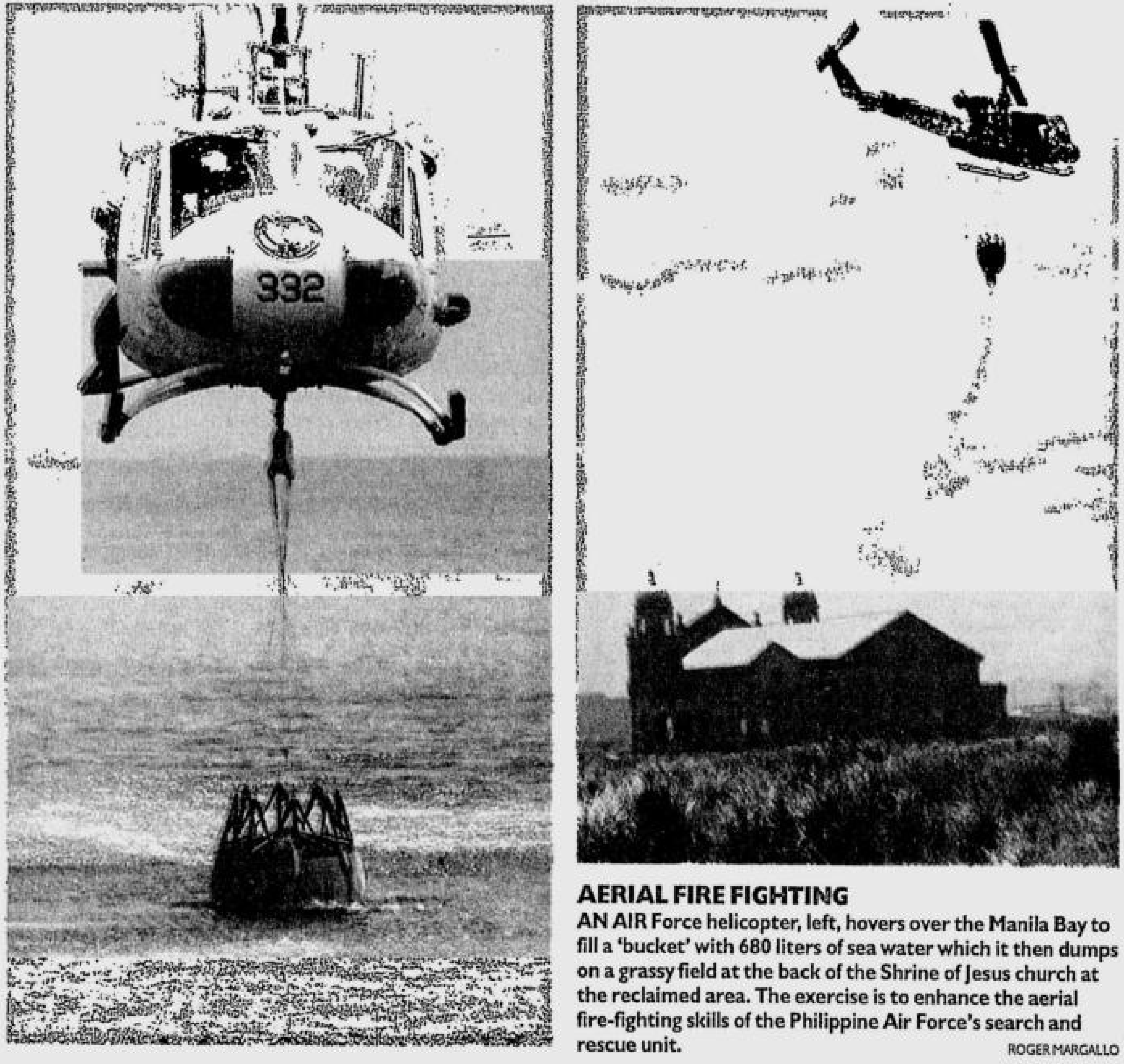
Lu said that because one lane of the avenue has already been closed to vehicular traffic, motorists have been using narrow secondary streets as alternate routes, causing traffic jams.

Atienza said that he has been expecting such criticisms from the city's residents.

"We are apologizing for (the) inconvenience, but we assure the people that they will surely benefit from the many advantages of pedestrianization once the project is finished," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

Yesterday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he would not be meddling with the Manila City Council's decision to close down Rizal Avenue.

"I guess the city council of Manila has considered all these, the impact of their closure, on the overall traffic situation in the city," Fernando said.



AERIAL FIRE FIGHTING
AN AIR Force helicopter, left, hovers over the Manila Bay to fill a 'bucket' with 680 liters of sea water which it then dumps on a grassy field at the back of the Shrine of Jesus church at the reclaimed area. The exercise is to enhance the aerial fire-fighting skills of the Philippine Air Force's search and rescue unit.

ROGER MARGALLO

'Exorcist' arrested for estafa

By Tina Santos

THE MALABON City police yesterday arrested two men disguised as priests endowed with healing powers and their four cohorts for trying to dupe a resident.

The suspects were identified as Carlito Ocenar, 62, and Merlito Sarmiento, 37, both of Batasan Hills, Quezon City. They were still wearing the regular white cassock of the Roman Catholic clergy when arrested.

Also arrested were their alleged cohorts Corazon Barroso, 45; Lynn Gabriel, 32; Arianne Villanueva, 22; and Rolito Rangel, 19, all residents of Quezon City.

Investigator P02 Peter Rios said Ocenar and company went to the house of Rolando Tamayao, 48, a driver, at Pineapple Road, Barangay Potrero, after learning that the latter was suffering from an ailment.

Tamayao said the group offered to exorcise the "spirit" that was causing his illness.

He however felt suspicious when the two "priests" handed him an envelope for a donation for the healing session.

Tamayao excused himself and sought the advice of a priest-friend who told him that the two were fakes. He then went to the police to report the attempted estafa.

More charges filed vs sacked CIDG man

By Margaux Ortiz

EVEN after his dismissal from the service, the former head of the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group unit in Rizal is still facing more charges.

A woman yesterday filed a complaint with the National Bureau of Investigation's Violence Against Women and Children Division against Chief Insp. James Brilliantes.

The woman accused Brilliantes of arbitrary and illegal detention, extortion, acts of lasciviousness and malicious prosecution.

The woman said Brilliantes detained her for six days at the CIDG detachment unit for allegedly smuggling shabu in a detention cell.

According to the woman, she went to the CIDG unit on April 16 to bring food to her common-law husband, his brother, and their two companions.

The brothers, sons of a Rizal provincial councilor and their two companions were arrested the previous night for their alleged involvement in the Sonny Parsons case. The raid was conducted on Brilliantes' orders.

The woman said that Brilliantes' men conducted a body search on her and found a packet of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

The woman said that while she was detained at the CIDG office, Brilliantes kept on asking for money in exchange for her immediate release.

The woman said that Brilliantes initially asked for P60,000, but eventually lowered it to P5,000 when the woman said that she could not produce the amount.

Brilliantes also told the woman that she could get her freedom in exchange for sexual favors, according to the victim.

"He constantly told me to coordinate with his bagman (civilian agent) Edgar Ty," the complainant said.

According to her, drug tests had showed that the shabu allegedly found on her was just tawas (crystals), but Brilliantes allegedly kept the information from her so he could detain her for a longer period of time.

The woman, who eventually tested negative for drug use, said that the recent case involving two minors encouraged her to file charges against Brilliantes.

Brilliantes was sacked for allegedly detaining two 11-year-old girls and extorting money from them. According to a report, the girls had been arrested for peddling drugs.

Security men sow terror in Wack Wack condo

By Luige del Puerto

RESIDENTS of a condominium building in Wack Wack, Mandaluyong want to fire their own security force after the guards allegedly manhandled and threatened some of them in an incident last week.

Crispian Lao, speaking on behalf of some 20 residents of the Twin Towers condominium, where some celebrities and politicians live, said the presence of guards from the Safeguard Armor Security Group was a threat to the homeowners.

"I leave my wife and kids at home when I go to work," Lao said. "I don't feel comfortable having the guards near my home. This was what other residents felt, too."

This sentiment among the residents was strengthened on June 23 when resident Christine Quintana filed charges of grave threat against security officer Loremer Abohan with the Mandaluyong Police. She accused Abohan of cocking his shotgun and aiming it at her.

On the same day, security man Anselmo Capa accidentally fired his shotgun. The bullet ricocheted and hit driver Jerry Balolo in the leg, the police report said.

Lao said a woman resident with a child was standing nearby and was almost hit by the bullet when the gun went off.

"We no longer feel that the guards are here to protect us," another resident said.

The condominium's chief security officer, Efren Poster, refused to answer questions from the Inquirer. He told the Inquirer to talk to his superiors instead.

But the security agency's manager, Perfecto Feliz, was on leave yesterday, according to his secretary.

The security agency was hired by the condominium's homeowners association whose officers were elected last January, the residents said.

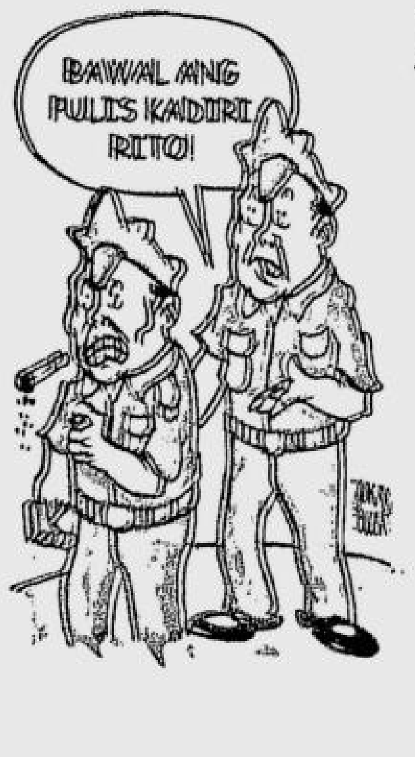
Some residents have challenged the legitimacy of the election before a Pasig City court. On June 20, Judge Amelia Manalastas issued a "status quo ante" order. Three days later, one of the condominium's association officers forced her way into the administration office to take away documents. An ABC-5 cameraman took a video of the event.

A few residents tried to bar the officer, and a melee ensued when the security men manhandled the residents, the video showed.

The residents have also filed a complaint with the office of the Civil Security Group under Reynaldo Berroya.

Berroya said he had asked Raul Bacalso, chief of the Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division, to investigate the complaint.

SAGSD, a PNP support unit, oversees the security agencies' operations and processes, and issues licenses to guards.


BAWAL ANG PULIS KADIRI RITO!

Metro cops banned from smoking

UNTIL yesterday, P02 Nelson Villa of the Cubao police station smoked.

But if Villa smoked today while on the job and wearing his uniform, he would be fined between P500 to P400,000 and imprisoned from 30 days to three years.

Thanks to a "no smoking" policy which the National Capital Regional Office yesterday enforced, the 17,000 policemen in the metropolis were obliged to break the nicotine habit.

NCRPO Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco yesterday said the smoking ban was added to the police force's "Pulis Malinis" campaign.

Velasco said he had ordered his district directors to strictly implement the "no smoking" policy in compliance with RA 9211, or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

He also ordered the directors to coordinate with Metro Manila mayors to ensure strict and proper implementation of the new policy.

Long before President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the Act into law, Velasco had already issued a memorandum banning smoking among cops in public places and while they were on duty.

Signs of "No Smoking" and "Yosi Kadiri" were put up in various precincts in Metro Manila in compliance with the law, which required government offices to post these signs in open, public places.

Aside from the smoking ban, the NCRPO's "Pulis Malinis" campaign required the lawmen to wear proper uniform, sport proper haircut and maintain clean surroundings.

The Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. (MFBAI) yesterday agreed with the new policy, saying that lawmen should not smoke while in uniform.

"It's really unsightly for cops to be puffing cigarettes while wearing their uniforms," said Antonio Emmanuel, vice president of the MFBAI.

"Civilians will find it hard to respect law enforcers if they smoked on the job," he said in a phone interview.

But Emmanuel said that once the cops were off duty, they still had the right to smoke.

P02 Villa said he would try to live up to the "no smoking" policy, even when he was no longer at work and was out of uniform.

"It's worth a try," he said. *Amy Remo, Margaux Ortiz, Alcuin Papa*

METROBRIEFS

Valenzuela search

THE Valenzuela City government has authorized its barangay officials to inspect warehouses, factories and other establishments to make sure these are not used for illegal activities. City Ordinance No. 41, authored by councilor Edilberto Lozada and enacted last June 18, allows the city's 32 barangay chairs to "conduct at least quarterly inspections of business establishments within their jurisdiction." The ordinance invokes the "police power of the state." Local legislators enacted the ordinance after the police discovered that several factories and warehouses in the city were being used for the manufacture or storage of illegal drugs, counterfeiting and storage of fake branded clothes, fake cigarettes, pirated VCDs and other items. *Tina Santos*

QC scholarships

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has allotted P20 million for the city's Scholarship Youth Development Program, which gives poor but deserving high school graduates in the city an opportunity to pursue a college education. Students who graduate with honors are automatically given a scholarship grant which includes tuition and book allowances. Scholars would be provided with financial assistance for one academic year, renewable every semester until they finished college. A total of 1,435 have qualified for the scholarship program this year. There are currently over 2,700 city scholars enrolled in various universities and colleges in Metro Manila. *Amy Remo*

Stabbed over phone

IN more ways than one, texting can be a health hazard. Ana Marie Garcia, 38, of Tondo, Manila, was texting while walking along Carriedo Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, when an unidentified man snatched her old-model Nokia cellular phone. The victim tried to get her cellphone back by running after the suspect. She caught up with the suspect and they started to grapple for the phone. Suddenly, the suspect stabbed the victim in the back. Garcia is now in a critical condition at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. The suspect escaped with her cellphone. *Tarra Quismundo*

Fetus in basement

A MAINTENANCE worker found a male fetus the other night in the basement of the Gold Tower building on Onyx Street at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City. Employees of the Quiogue Funeral Homes could not determine how old the fetus was. The police also did not give any other detail about the unborn child. *Luige del Puerto*

Navotas bags 256 in drugs

FIVE months before President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a renewed drive against illegal drugs, the Navotas police already started an intense campaign against the sale and use of illegal substances. At the end of that period, the police had arrested 256 suspects in various drug-related cases. According to Navotas Police chief Supt. Billy Beltran, the town had the most number of drug-related arrests in northern Metro Manila from January to May. "This only shows our sincerity to make the municipality drug-free in due time," Beltran said. Mayor Toby Tiangco said, "We intend to eradicate the root of many crimes," referring to illegal drugs. *Tina Santos*

More male drivers use drugs, says LTO report

By Amy Remo

MEN RULE!

At least, as far as drug use is concerned.

This is the obvious trend seen in results of drug tests among driver's license applicants, where more males than females were found to be taking banned substances at a ratio of about 145 men for every three women.

Rachel Beatriz Ruvivar, chair of the Land Transportation Office committee for drug testing centers, said 98 percent of applicants from May 1 to May 15, who were tested positive for drugs, were males.

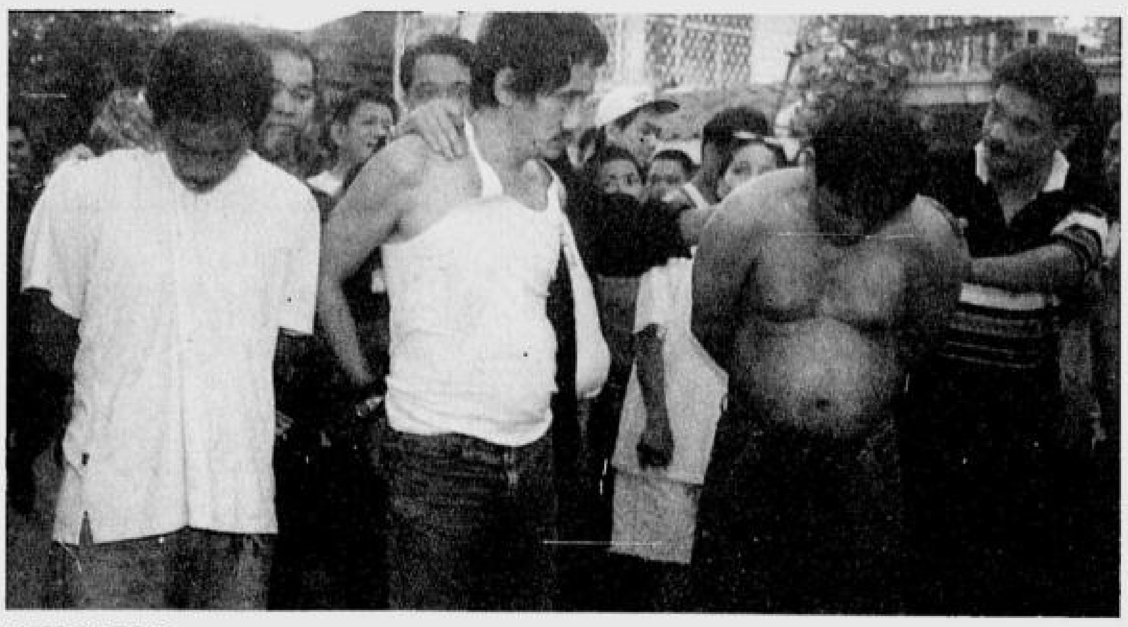
Out of 1.921 million applicants nationwide, 13,285 applicants tested positive for drugs. Of these, a total of 13,015 were males and only 270 were females.

Ruvivar said the data gathered by the LTO from the accredited drug testing centers could provide a demographic description of drug users, at least, among adult applicants for a driver's license. She also said that this might be useful in the government's intensified campaign against drug abuse.

The results, Ruvivar said, had also shown that shabu and marijuana were the substances of choice. Traces of these two substances were commonly found on specimens from the applicants who tested positive for drugs.

The data also showed that the National Capital Region had the highest number of male applicants found positive for drugs with 6,260. Of these, 6,093 were males, and 167 females.

Region 4 or the Southern Tagalog area was second with 2,856 applicants found positive for drugs.



DRUG RAID

Three suspected drug pushers, Leonardo Chanlionco, Bobby Valismo and Tano Mariano are paraded on the street after they were arrested in a raid Tuesday in Tondo, Manila by members of the Western Police District Station 7.

IPI PHOTO

Vigilantes kill 3 suspected pushers

By Alcuin Papa

VIGILANTES out to erase drug pushers from Quezon City are alive and kicking as the government launched recently an all-out war against drugs in the country.

Three suspected drug pushers, one man and two women, were found dead early morning yesterday.

The three still unidentified bodies were described to be between the ages of 25 to 40 years old and were still dressed in their clothes. One of the women was sporting a tattoo of the dreaded Sigue-Sigue Sputnik street gang.

The bodies were found by a certain Eric Soriano of 5 Renowned Lan, Sanville Subdivision, Culiat, Quezon City, around 4:30 a.m.

Also found on the bodies was a cardboard sign which read "Kung gusto mo pang mabuhay, itigil pagbenta ng shabu (If you want to live, stop selling shabu)." The note was signed by the "Vigilantes Inc. QC chapter."

In the past few months, dead bodies have been found littered across the city. Cardboard signs also signed by the Vigilantes Inc. were found on the bodies. The last victim of the Vigilante Inc. was found in Barangay Sto. Domingo last month.

An all-out war has been declared by the Arroyo government against drugs.

12 cops first to go in PNP drug purge

From page A22

punish officers involved in these illegal activities to rid the police force of scalawags.

He said he would order a re-investigation of PNP personnel previously linked to illegal drugs.

"We will backtrack on these cases," he said. "Once we've gathered evidence, we will file cases against them."

Lawmen with "derogatory remarks" in their records would be relieved, he warned.

Apart from purging its ranks of undesirables, Aglipay said the PNP would conduct strict screening of policemen who would wish to participate in the government's renewed drive against drug traffickers.

"Officers should not be tainted," he said in Filipino. "We're doing all these to prevent policemen from planting evidence, bungling cases, or using their authority to get back at their enemies."

Those who pass the screening will comprise the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AID SOTF), now the only unit authorized to conduct "pro-active" operations against drug users and syndicates.

To become an AID SOTF operative, a candidate would need the recommendation of the regional and provincial and the local police chiefs, Aglipay said. He added that members of the various drug enforcement units do not automatically qualify for the unit.

RANDOM BILIBID TEST

21 inmates positive for drug use

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

TWENTY-ONE out of 38 National Bilibid Prison inmates tested positive in a preliminary drug test conducted at the penitentiary on Sunday.

The figure represents 55 percent of the 38 inmates who voluntarily took the drug tests, Bureau of Corrections director Dionisio Santiago told the Inquirer yesterday.

Santiago refused to identify the 21 inmates, but sources at the penitentiary said four "high-profile" inmates were among those who tested positive.

Some of those who voluntarily took the drug test were Rolito Go, Ambet Antonio and Rey Yap. Santiago neither confirmed nor denied if the three were among those who tested positive.

Santiago stressed that the 55 percent rating which resulted from the drug test did not represent the entire population at the NBP.

The penitentiary has more than 16,000 inmates at present.

"The sample size is too small to generalize the results," Santiago said.

He said they had already submitted the urine samples to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for confirmatory tests. The results would be released in three days.

Santiago said the results of the drug test showed that shabu trade was still very much alive inside the NBP.

He added that it was possible some convicted drug lords in the NBP were still operating their respective syndicates.

Santiago denied earlier reports that shabu is being manufactured inside the penitentiary. But he said some inmates continue to coordinate and decide on some drug operations.

"We don't have enough equipment and personnel to monitor the more than 2,000 visitors that we get on weekends," he said.

He earlier announced that some visitors slip in shabu either by diluting it in mineral water or inserting the shabu sachets in their genitals.

He also called on lawmakers to help his bureau get more funds so he could implement reforms in the NBP.

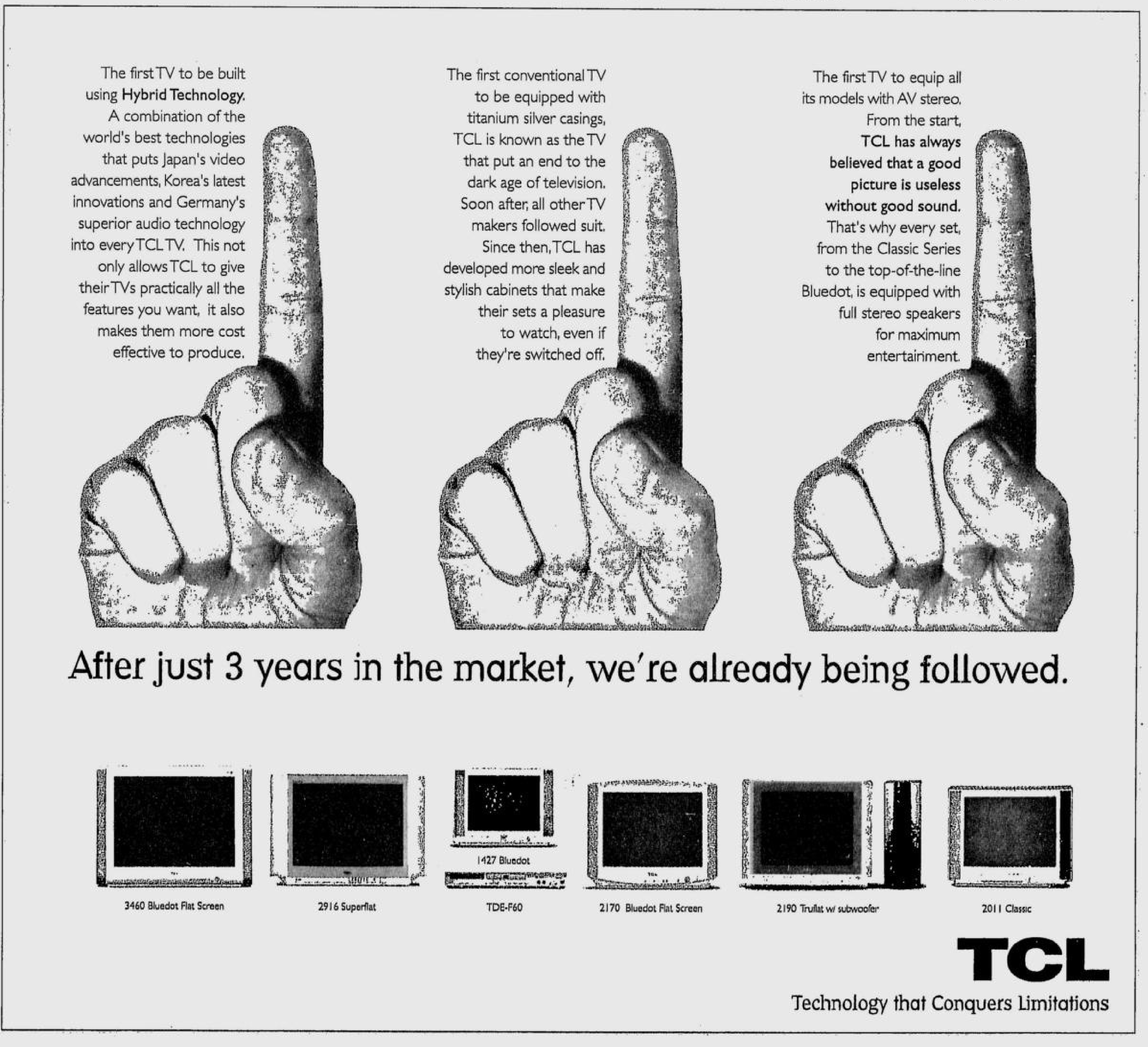
While Santiago said he intended to continue the drug tests, budget was a problem.

Meanwhile, Mandaluyong wants to build a prison facility preferably inside the NBP that will hold persons arrested in the city on drug charges.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos said he has broached this idea to the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Abalos said the city's jail could no longer accommodate new inmates.

Mandaluyong Police has collared more than 70 persons suspected of drug pushing since January. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*



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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

12 cops first to go in PNP drug purge

Lawmen involved in illegal activities next target, says Aglipay

By Christian V. Esguerra

AND NOW the axe falls.

Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay, the police anti-drug czar, yesterday announced the impending dismissal of 12 lawmen who tested positive for using illegal substances.

Aglipay identified these as Chief Insp. Roberto Gabor of the Aviation Security Group, SPO1 Rolando Cabangunay, PO3 Joselito Salvanera, and PO2 Cornelio De la Ysla Jr. of the National Capital Region Police Office; PO3 Manuel Javier, PO3 June Fabros, and PO2 Enrique de los Santos Jr. of the Special Action Force.

Others in the purge list were PO2 Marvin Salazar of the Logistics Support Service, PO1 Pedro Avelino Jr. of the Eastern Police District, PO1 Joselito Sablay of the Western Police District, PO1 Joseph Apuan of the Traffic Management Group, and PO1 Jose dela Cruz of the Nueva Ecija Provincial Office.

The lawmen were among 1,000 Philippine National Police personnel that underwent random drug testing in Camp Crame in Quezon City recently.

"Aside from having them dismissed, we will also place them on rehabilitation so they won't be a problem to society," Aglipay said.

He named the policemen facing dismissal as he confirmed a statement by President Macapagal-Arroyo that some PNP men were recycling seized drugs and turning arrested drug pushers into "milking cows."

"There's truth to that and that is what we want to avoid," Aglipay told reporters.

Aglipay vowed to also identify and

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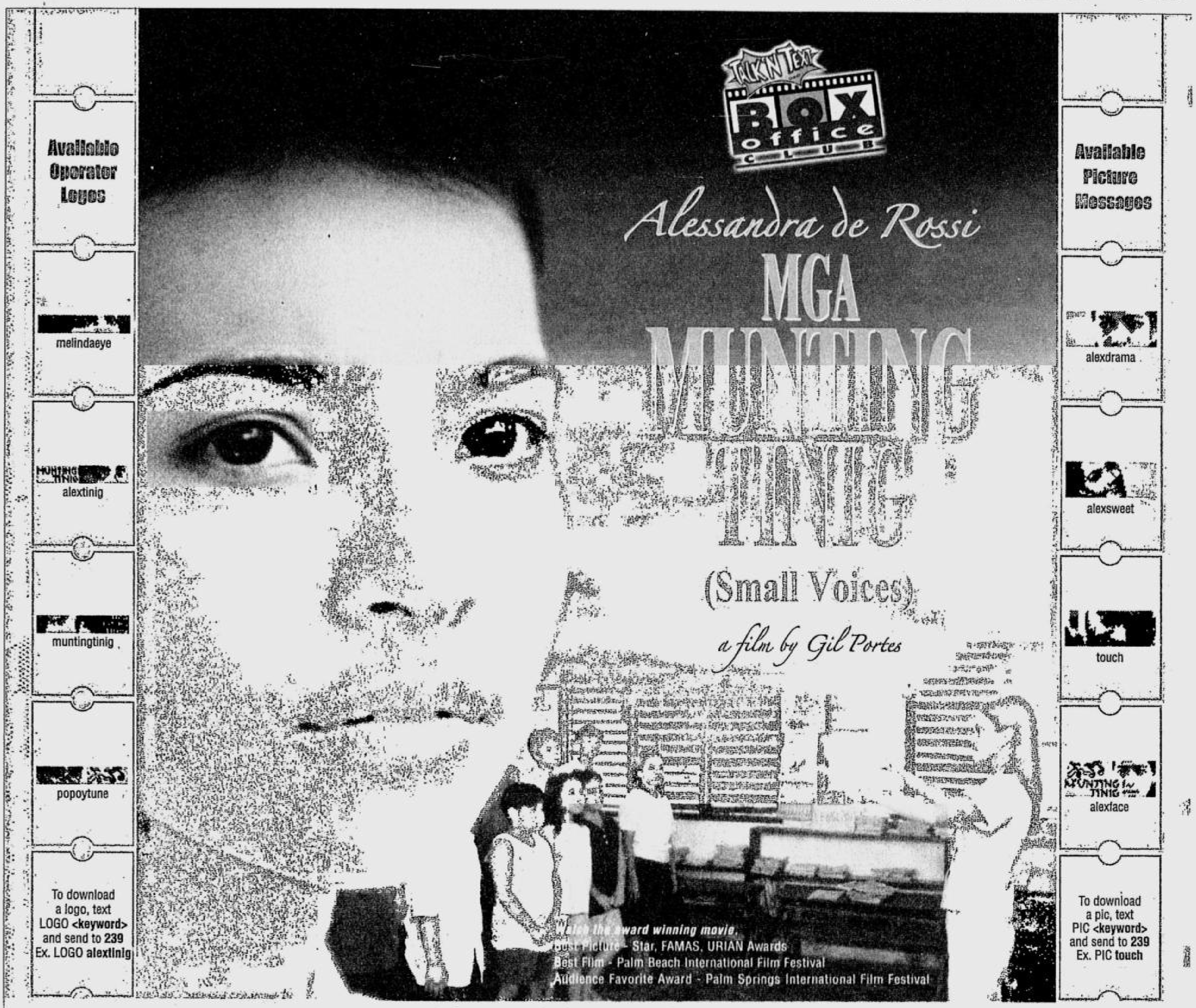
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Security at RMSC tightened

By Roy Luarca

SECURITY was tightened at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday in the aftermath of the failed assassination attempt on athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain deployed additional security personnel and patrol cars from the Western Police District scoured the area.

"It (RMSC) is not just a sports complex but a community of athletes, coaches, sports leaders and employees," said Buhain. "We need to ensure their safety."

National athletes and coaches are billeted at the RMSC, which sits on an 8-hectare prime land at the back of De La Salle University.

A 10 p.m. curfew is strictly enforced within the complex, but Buhain wants to make sure that the athletes are safe even when they are not in the premises.

"We're coordinating with the WPD for increased police visibility in the RMSC and adjacent areas," said Buhain.

"We should not allow this incident to happen again. The safety of our athletes and the sports fans is paramount."

Additional guards from the Excelgard Security Agency were deployed yesterday afternoon to complement the 36-man force assigned at the RMSC, which has two main gates and two smaller ones.

In a related development, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza sent additional policemen to provide security for Go, who was operated on at the Ospital ng Maynila for two gunshot wounds on the right cheek. Witnesses said the gunman and the driver fled on board a motorcycle.

The 59-year-old Go, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association since 1992, was transferred to a private hospital late in the afternoon after his condition stabilized.

BUHAIN: We need to ensure the safety of athletes and officials.

Sports officials condemn Go assassination try

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S top sports leaders condemned the failed ambush on athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday even as they appealed to the Philippine National Police to solve the case as soon as possible.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said it was a terrible and sad incident.

"We are glad that Mr. Go is now in stable condition," he said.

Buhain appealed to the PNP to make a quick and thorough investigation of the case, saying that violence has no place in sports.

Philippine Olympic Committe president Celso Dayrit said: "This is a sad day for Philippine sports. This is totally unacceptable, coming at a time when he (Go Teng Kok) is preparing to stage the Asian Championships."

Though Dayrit and Go have been at odds over sports issues in the past that stemmed from their rivalry over the POC presidency in 2000, Dayrit was among the first sports officials to visit Go at the Ospital ng Maynila.

"The sporting community is saddened by this tragic event," said Dayrit.

Weightlifting president and Rep. Monico Puentevella said he believes that the people behind the shooting are not from the sporting community.

"I don't think this horrible attempt at (Go's) life in daytime was in the realm of Philippine sports," Puentevella told the INQUIRER during an overseas call from the United States.

Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, retired Gen. Job Mayo (bodybuilding) and retired Capt. Rey Jaylo (judo) sent security men to protect Go at the hospital.

"I was shocked that people could do such a thing," said Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary Graham Lim, who is closely identified with Go.

GO: In stable condition.

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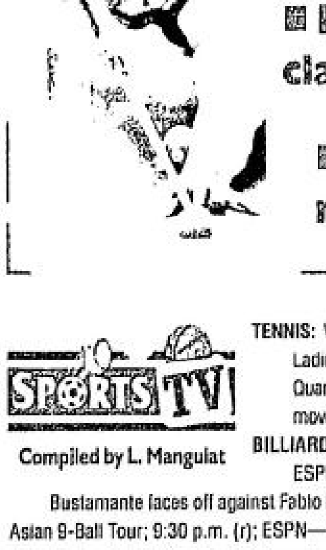


SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

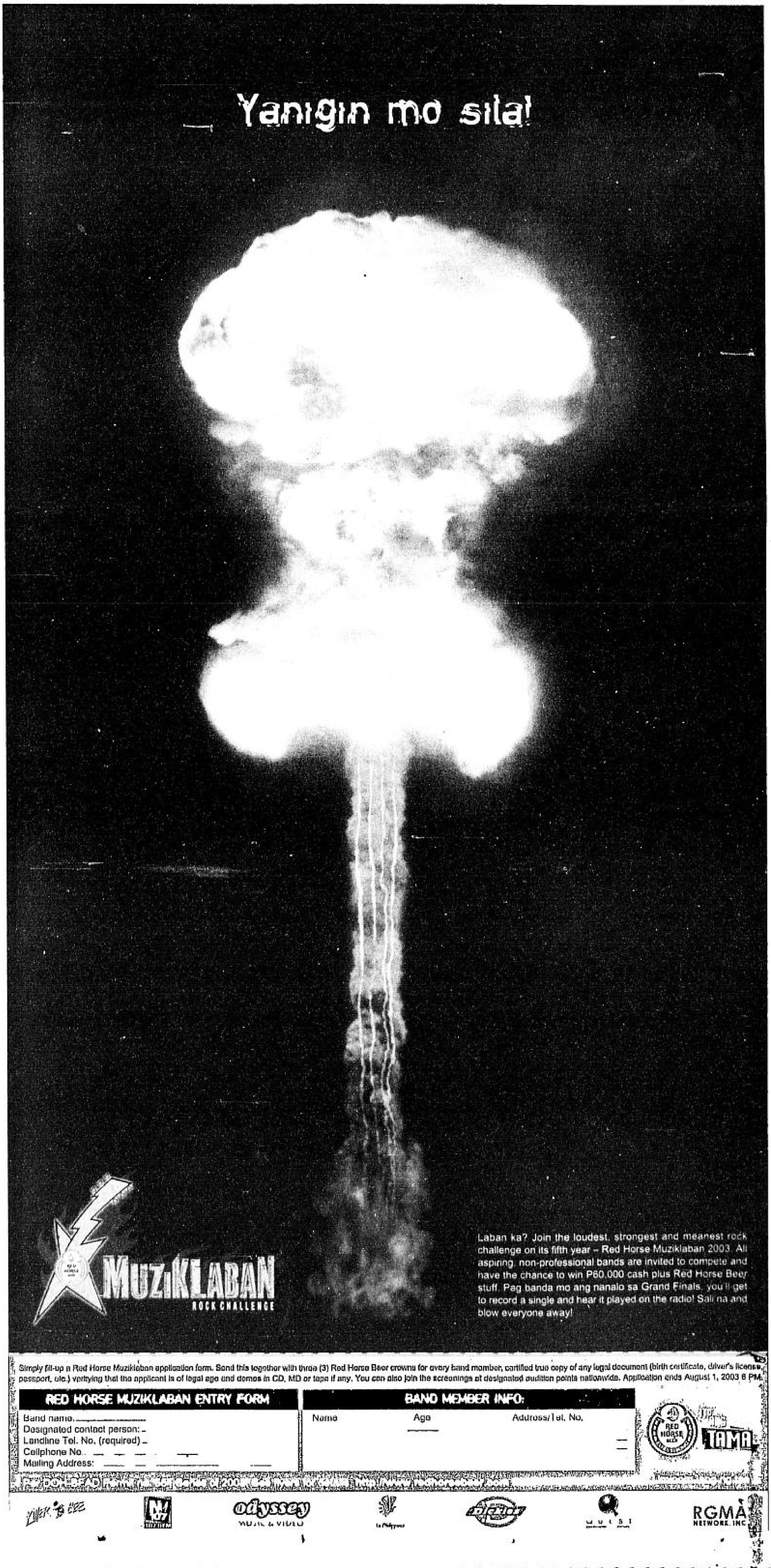
TENNIS: Wimbledon; Day 8 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r - 5:30 p.m.), Ladies Singles Quarter Finals; 10:30 a.m. (r); Men's Singles Quarter Finals; 7 p.m.; Star Sports—See who survives and moves on to the Final Four.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m. (r - 1 p.m.) and 7 p.m.; ESPN—Asians display their billiards prowess as Django Bustamante faces off against Fabio Petroni while Jang Su Lee clashes with Steve Davis.

Asian 9-Ball Tour; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Relive the glory as Efren "Bata" Reyes and Warren Kiamco slugged it out for the top prize in front of the hometown fans in Manila.

GOLF: US Women's Golf Championship Preview; tomorrow at 5 a.m.; ESPN—Get a head start before the first shot is fired from the tee from Cornelius, Oregon.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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Cellphone No.
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BAND MEMBER INFO:

Name	Age	Address/Tel. No.

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Mapua, San Beda gun for win No.2

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs San Beda (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua (Srs/Jrs)

MAPUA Institute of Technology and San Beda College try to sustain their good starts in a pair of matches today in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Cardinals, coming off a 66-58 flogging of the Letran Knights on Saturday, tackle the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers at 2 p.m. while the Red Lions, who downed the Philippine Christian University Dolphins, 75-68, meet the Knights in the other seniors tussle.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim will pin his hopes anew on skipper Christian Guevarra, Jeffrey Martin, Nat Cruz, Jofferson Gonzales and Raymond Dula, the gangling 6-foot-5 center who dealt the killer blows against the Knights in Saturday's opener.

JRU coach Reynaldo De Vera is expected to bank on beanpole Mark Borboran and 6-foot-5 rookie Kenneth Coyukang to try to stop Dula as well as his heavier backstoppers, Cruz, Gonzales, Andrew Salud and Tristan Veranga.

The Bombers, who last won the NCAA title in 1972, has figured in the Finals twice in the last five years, but they lost to Letran in 1999 and to San Sebastian College in 2001.

JRU started on the wrong foot this year, losing to defending champion San Sebastian last Saturday. Heavily laden with rookies, the Red Lions are also in for a tough battle against the Knights, whose backcourt offense is orchestrated by Jonathan Aldave, Ronjay Enrile and Boyet Bautista.

The Red Lions boasts three 6-foot-5 centers–rookie Martin Antonio, a prized find from Lourdes School of Quezon City, Michael Casino and Jerome Paterno.

June Navarro

'Scud' shoots down Agassi

Philippoussis fires record-tying 46 aces

WIMBLEDON, England—The ace race was one-sided, the match much closer. Andre Agassi lost them both.

Undaunted by the game's greatest returner, who also happens to be ranked No. 1 and own eight Grand Slam titles, unseeded Australian Mark Philippoussis hit a record-tying 46 aces and upset Agassi 6-3, 2-6, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round.

The defeat ended Agassi's bid at 33 to become the oldest men's champion at Wimbledon in the Open era.

"Everyone was expecting him to win, and that's a great position to be in," Philippoussis said.

Agassi hit 10 aces and kept the match close by overcoming 18 of 21 break points on his serve, but he converted only two of 11 break-point chances himself. Philippoussis repeatedly came up with big serves on important points— and against a player whose service return may be the best ever.

Philippoussis, who has 119 aces in four matches, earned his fourth quarterfinal berth at Wimbledon. He has never advanced further.

The Australian's serves topped out at 215 kph, and his ace total tied Goran Ivanisevic's mark in 1997.

Agassi's exit means no past winners are in the quarterfinals; that hasn't been the case at the All-England Club since 1973, when a player boycott diluted the field.

For Philippoussis, this represents a return to the big time. Once ranked No. 8 and the 1998 US Open runner-up, he fell out of the top 100 in 2001 after a series of left knee injuries.

"The great thing about the serve is you've got the ball in your hands. You can take your time, no one can rush you. You're in control," the 48th-ranked Australian said.

Philippoussis gets to play a little-known foe this time: Alexander Popp, who's ranked 198th and beat Olivier Rochus 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Other quarterfinals: No. 5 Andy Roddick vs. Jonas Bjorkman, No. 4 Roger Federer vs. No. 8 Sjeng Schalken, and Britain's Tim Henman vs. Juan Carlos Ferrero or Sebastien Grosjean— their match was stopped because of darkness with Grosjean ahead, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6.

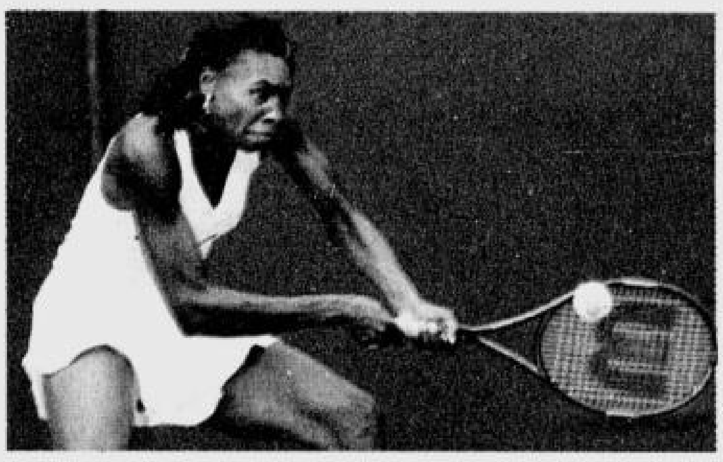
After rain delayed Monday's start an hour, the Williams sisters, Jennifer Capriati, Lindsay Davenport and Kim Clijsters were in action simultaneously. Not for long, though: They all won quickly, dropping a total of 23 games.

Venus Williams had to be the most satisfied winner. She picked up a 6-1, 6-3 victory over No. 16 Vera Zvonareva, who stunned her in the French Open's fourth round.

In other men's singles matches, fourth seed Roger Federer of Switzerland defeated Feliciano Lopez of Spain, 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-4; Roddick beat No. 12 Paradorn Srichaphan 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; No.8 Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands downed No.9 Rainer Schuettler of Germany, 7-5, 6-4, 7-5; No.10 Tim Henman beat sixth seed David Nalbandian of Argentina, 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-3; and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden outhit Max Mirnyi of Belarus, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(4).

In women's play third seed Justine Henin-Hardenne made short work of Mary Pierce, 6-3, 6-3; No. 15 Davenport downed Shinobu Asagoe of Japan, 6-4, 6-1; No.8 Capriati beat No. 10 Anastasia Myskina of Russia, 6-2, 6-3; No.2 Clijsters routed No.13 Ai Sugiyama of Japan, 6-3, 6-2; Serena Williams defeated No.15 Elena Dementieva of Russia, 6-2, 6-2; Elia outlasted Paola Suarez of Argentina, 7-5, 7-6(3); and Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia downed countrywoman Maria Sharapova, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5.

AP



VENUS Williams exacted sweet revenge on No. 16 Vera Zvonareva, who stunned her in the French Open's fourth round. She faces Lindsay Davenport today.

A shot in the arm for badminton

ELEVEN teams will compete in the inaugural Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Badminton Cup from July 14-20 at the Yellow Feather Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City.

Spearheaded by Team Powerplay of Atlanta Olympian and former PSC Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim and supported by Dunlop Sport, the competition will hold its quarterfinals, semifinals and finals at SM Megamall.

"We need more tournaments like this. Badminton has become a very popular sport in our country," said former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, president of the Philippine Badminton Association.

Also present at yesterday's launching of the event at Valle Verde Sports Club in Pasig were PBA vice president and PNP deputy director Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, Sportshouse president Mars Chua, Cecille Reyes, president and director of Dunlop Slazenger Holdings Phils. Inc., Roy Ordiales, Sportshouse marketing manager, and Lim, who along with Kennivic Asuncion gave the Philippines its first badminton medal in the Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta in 1977 in mixed doubles.

The competing teams are ADB, Bingo Bonanza Corp., CB Richard Ellis, Crossover 105.1, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Dive Shoppe, Nokia, Procter and Gamble, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Pioneer/DuPont and PNB.

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Dennis U. Eroa

SPORTSHOUSE president Mars Chua (middle) presents a symbolic giant badminton racquet to PBA president Ming Ramos (second from left). Others in photo are Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, Weena Lim and Dunlop Slazenger Holdings Phil. president Cecile Reyes. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

FILA
FILA
FILA

MARK Philippousis celebrates his stunning upset win over world No. I Andre Agassi on center court. REUTERS

Punctuality could spell gold

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT'S NOT a merchandise that can be advertised and marketed.

Just the same, there were people eager to know how much Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron of Cuba got for conducting the nine-day boxing clinic for Filipino coaches which ends today.

The question was posed on Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez.

Lopez could only shake his head. He first clarified that there could never be an apt price for the golden teachings imparted by the visiting sports dignitary.

Then, in a shy whisper, he said: "Treinta, 30."

Thirty thousand pesos a day?

"No, thirty dollars ($30) a day," Lopez mumbled.

That's supposed to be off the record, explained Lopez, who felt other people would not believe Dr. Sagarra has agreed to render service in the country practically for free.

"Believe it or not, that $30 a day is the allowance set aside by the International Olympic Solidarity Movement for Dr. Sagarra," Lopez said.

Lopez was also quick to say that Dr. Sagarra had never even once talked about money.

***

After the final boxing teach-ins today, the fifty-something attendees from various regions will get their diplomas.

Lopez also confirmed that he had been begging for this teaching-visit of Dr. Sagarra through the years.

To those still unaware of it, Dr. Sagarra is the main man who assembled and supervised the Cuban boxing program that has amassed a total of 27 Olympic gold medals, not to mention 42 world championship winners.

Dr. Sagarra would not say how much help he could give in this fast-tracked effort to win the country's first Olympic gold medal.

He had seen and heard about Filipino boxers, and he has kind words for them.

They're good, he said, recalling how Anthony Villanueva nearly won the featherweight gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, the first time Cuba participated in the Olympiad.

In fact, the Cuban master said he remembered the exact score of the judges—3-2—in that close bout which had the legendary Joe Cantada shouting "we were robbed, we were robbed" from the ringside in Tokyo.

There was also the near-miss by Onyok Velasco in Atlanta 1996.

The twin silver-medal feats, Dr. Sagarra explained, showed that the Philippines is within striking distance of the gold medal.

But, he quickly added, landing the country's first gold would need a lot of hard work and discipline.

Cuba, despite a solid, well-rounded program, is by this time wasting no time and preparing very hard for the Olympics in Athens next year.

He said the four Cuban gold medalists in the Sydney Olympic boxing competitions in 2000 are not automatically assured of slots in Athens.

They have to prove their worth and competence as there are more than enough competitors out there to test and challenge them, he said.

In short, Cuba may have their star boxers, but the superstar system doesn't prevail under President Fidel Castro.

The secret, he repeated, is hard work, intelligence and discipline.

OK, he has imparted practically everything during the teach-ins.

How and when these efforts, seen as a golden ray shining on amateur boxing here, would bear fruit is not for anybody to say.

Promptness, said Dr. Sagarra shaking his head, would be a vital factor. He then pointed to the fact that this particular session on Friday had to start late at 10 a.m., two hours behind schedule.

You cannot afford to be late here, he said.

Cuba, he explained, will itself have to work hard until late in the day for it to sustain its Olympic target.

By a plain estimate, he said Cuba will, at this point, continue working until, say, 11 p.m.

Here in the Philippines, you will have to work real hard until 1 a.m.

You can't afford to be late, he stressed.

Actually, nobody has told Dr. Sagarra that this is next to impossible here.

Coke, TNT mix it up in Game 1

Tigers out to disrupt defending champs' fastbreak

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska (for third)
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N' Text (Game 1, Finals)

By June Navarro

TALK N' Text will try to stop Coca-Cola's lethal fastbreaks when the two teams collide today in Game 1 of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup Finals at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Talk N' Text coach Joel Banal admits the Phone Pals are wary of the fast-flowing offense of the defending champion Tigers.

"I'm psyching myself up that I have a chance to win the series. It would be a tall order knowing that Coke has championship experience and plays very fluid offense," said Banal.

He was talking about Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso, Rudy Hatfield, Ato Morano, Poch Juinio and Rafi Reavis as well as Coca-Cola's ability to get its offense in full motion with hardly any effort at all.

"(Coach) Chot (Reyes) has the luxury of just sitting on the bench in a hotly contested game. That's how organized Coke's offense is," said Banal.

But Reyes says he can't relax when his team is up against a team like Talk N' Text, not in the Finals and definitely not with the Phone Pals' "man mountain" Asi Taulava expected to assert himself again in the shaded lane.

The Tigers, who captured the All-Filipino Cup in their rookie season last year, are seeking to become the first sophomore team to win back-to-back conference championships. Great Taste last achieved this feat 17 years ago.

"If we have to throw a quadruple team on Asi, we will gladly do so. Our focus will be on how to stop him in the paint," said Reyes.

"It's like stopping Shaq (O'Neal) in the NBA," said Hatfield, who will be tasked with defending the beefy 6-foot-8 Taulava. Hatfield will get help from Reavis and Cris Bolado.

But what could be irritating for Reyes and his Tigers is the fact that whenever Taulava gets stymied inside, he kicks the ball out to shooters Patrick Fran, Jimmy Alapag and Bong Ravena.

"It will depend on how fast we can recover from helping out on Asi. If we could rotate quickly once Asi passes off, then we could somehow stop the shooters," said Reyes.

Fans will also enjoy the backcourt match-up between 1996 PBA MVP Abarrientos and the rookie Alapag.

ROOKIE RIVALS: Talk N' Text spitfire Jimmy Alapag put one over Alaska's Mike Cortez in their explosive semi-final encounter. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Cariaso, Alapag best of the week

THEY played key roles in their teams' march to the PBA All-Filipino Cup finals. It's but fitting therefore that Coca-Cola's Jeffrey Cariaso and Talk N' Text's Jimmy Alapag share Samsung best player honors for June 23-29.

Cariaso hardly needs any motivation.

He hasn't won a PBA title since moving out of Alaska in 1997 and though he was part of the Coca-Cola squad that won the All-Filipino Cup last year, he did not play a single game due to injury.

"That's why I'm really working hard right now. I want to be there on the court if we win a title. That's why I promise to give more than my very best when the championship starts," said Cariaso.

Alapag is pumped up to help Talk N' Text take its first league title after being thwarted twice.

"I'm excited that management has the chance to win that title," said Alapag. *Roy Luarca*

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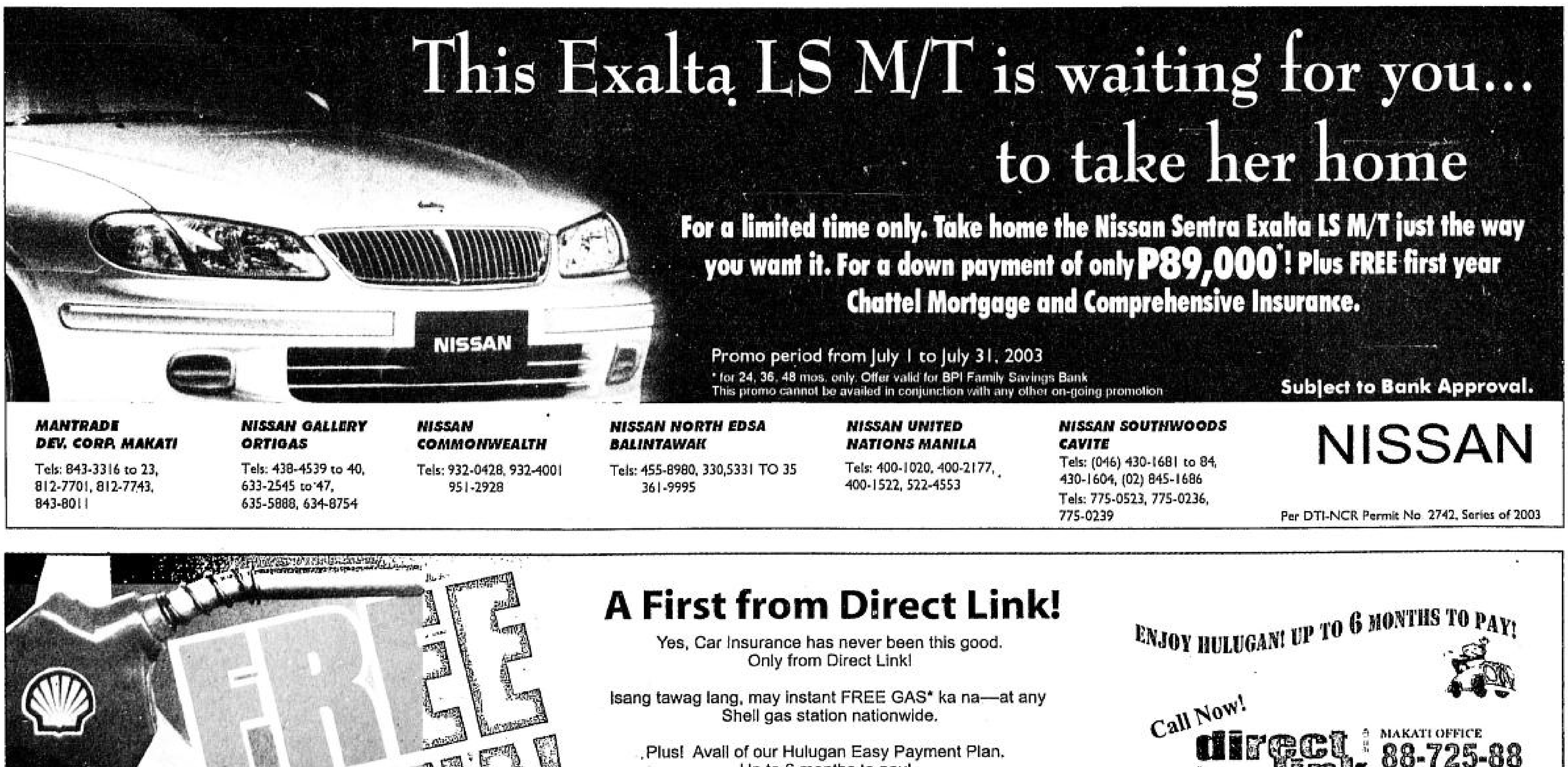

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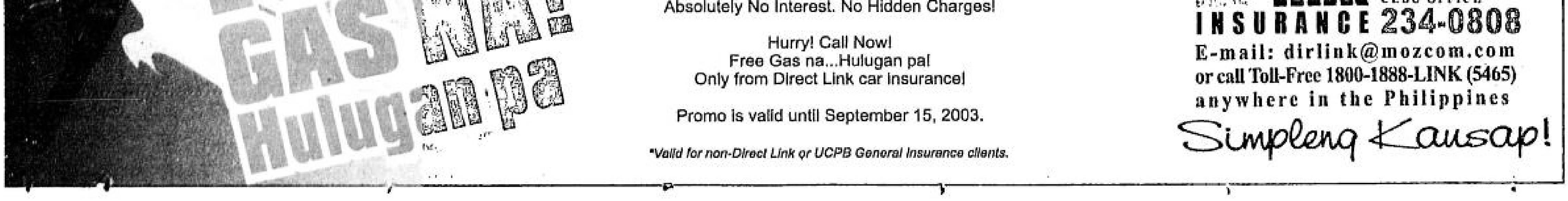

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RP-Europe 9-ball clash on today

Bata and Co. confident vs 'handsome' rivals

BATA REYES

BUSTAMANTE

By Dennis U. Eroa

"THEY are all handsome."

The enthusiastic crowd roared in delight as Filipino pool shark Francisco "Django" Bustamante answered when asked to describe the chances of the four top European bets in the On Cue 1st RP-Europe 9-ball billiards tournament starting today.

Whether their handsome looks can be translated into "handsome" games will be known today at the start of the week-long event which also serves as warm-up to this year's World 9-ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

Warren Kiamko opens the Philippines' bid when he tackles Ralf Souquet of Germany at 6 p.m.

Crowd darling Efren "Bata" Reyes clashes with Sweden's Marcus Chamat in the second game at 7 p.m.

Antonio Lining tests Finland's Mika Immonen at 8 p.m., while Francisco "Django" Bustamante battles Dutch Niels Feijen in the nightcap at 9.

The tournament is organized by AMF Puyat and ABS-CBN, which is celebrating its Golden Anniversary.

"Chamat may be small in size, but he plays big. He has improved a lot," said Reyes, a holder of the Philippine Legion of Honor and a billiards Hall of Famer.

Chamat stands barely five feet, but boasts of winning various tournaments in Europe.

"I must play aggressively against Efren," said Chamat.

Lining, the 2000 All-Japan champion and a gold medalist in the 9-ball event of the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, said Souquet is a very talented foe.

"I cannot promise anything but to give my best in front of our countrymen," said Lining.

Bustamante, last year's AzBilliards Player of the Year, will battle Feijen, nicknamed the "Terminator" for his countless European triumphs.

"This should be a good game," said Bustamante.

Immonen said it's always an honor to play against Filipino players.

"'The pressure will be on Lining because he will be playing in front of his fans," he added.

The tournament offers the champion $15,000, with the second placer getting $10,000. The third and fourth placers will receive $5,000 and $3,000, respectively.

Billiards godfather Putch Puyat predicted that the winner of the Cardiff Championships will come from the On Cue competitors.

SPORTSWATCH

Tim staying with Spurs

SAN ANTONIO—San Antonio Spurs star Tim Duncan plans to sign a long-term deal with the 2003 NBA champions, his agent said Monday. Duncan, the league's MVP the last two seasons, decided not to exercise a player option in his current four-year contract, meaning he will become a free agent. But that doesn't mean the 7-foot forward is thinking about going anywhere else. "He will enter into discussions with the Spurs as soon as he is able to," Lon Babby, Duncan's agent, said. "Tim intends to re-sign with the Spurs once the details of a long-term deal can be finalized." Babby said Duncan does not expect to even talk to other NBA teams before settling back in with San Antonio. The story was first reported Monday afternoon by the San Antonio Express-News in its online edition. *AP*

Shot by ex-teammate

WACO, Texas—A police informant in Delaware told authorities that missing Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy was shot in the head with a 9 mm handgun by a former teammate after the two had an argument, according to court documents released Monday. The teammate and former roommate, Carlton Dotson, told a cousin that he got in an argument with Dennehy while they were shooting guns in the Waco area and that Dennehy pointed a gun at Dotson as if to shoot him, the informant said. But Dotson instead shot Dennehy in the head with the pistol, the informant said. Dotson said he then drove home to Hurlock, Maryland, and got rid of the guns along the way, the informant said. *AP*

Jordan's replacement

WASHINGTON—Ernie Grunfeld was hired as president of basketball operations of the Washington Wizards on Monday, taking the job that Michael Jordan held the last two seasons. The hiring came a day after Grunfeld was released from his contract as general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks. He inherits a team that went 37-45 in the two years Jordan held that position while playing his final two years in the NBA. Washington owner Abe Pollin decided he no longer wanted Jordan as an executive. *AP*

Intervillage set July 7

THE FIRST round of the Nokia Intervillage grand finals fires off July 7 at Valley Golf Club. Heading the 12-team field is defending champion Philamhomes, which is expected to get a stiff challenge from Greenmeadows, Greenhills 1 and Alabang Hills in Group A. The second round will be held July 14 at the Alabang Country Club. Don Enrique Heights, Bel-Air, Casa Verde, BF Homes make up Group B while Group C consists of White Plains, Magallanes, Loyola Grand Villas and Tahanan Village. While the Jun Fontanilla-skippered Philamhomes remains the team to beat with a solid roster, the rest of the field are expected to go all out to foil its back-to-back title bid.

Golf firm bankrupt

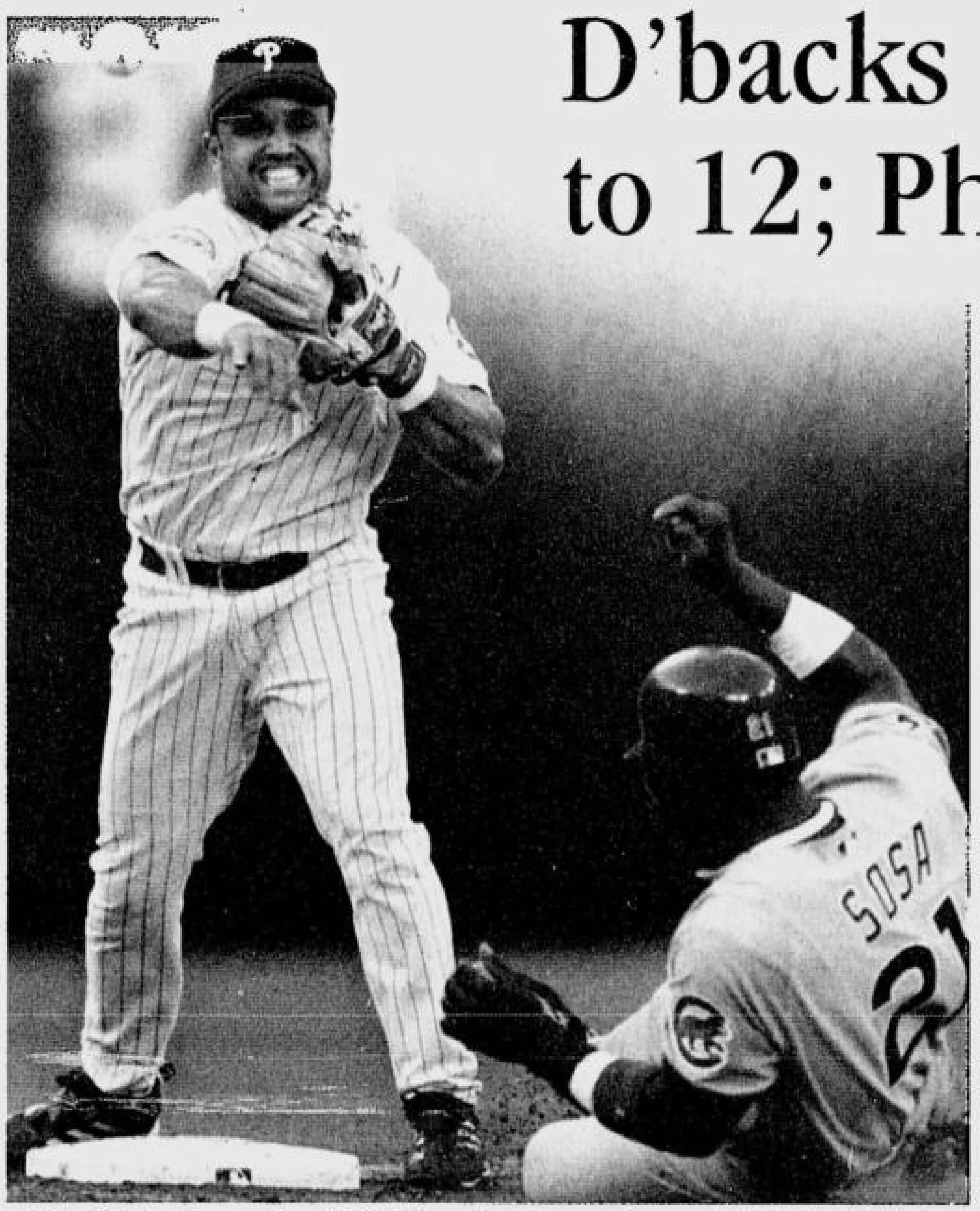
SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts—The Top-Flite Golf Co., the world's largest golf ball producer, is filing for bankruptcy and plans to sell its assets to club maker Callaway Golf. Top-Flite CEO Jim Craigie said Monday the company's US$250 million in sales in 2002 were being crushed by its $530 million debt in a market that was too competitive. Under the deal, which needs government approval, Callaway would buy Top-Flite for $125 million, free and clear of debt. Top-Flite, a private company, was formerly Spalding Sports Worldwide. The name was changed after the company sold the Spalding brand and its entire line of inflatable balls to athletic wear maker Russell Corp. in April. *AP*

Carmona karting host

DADO Pena of Birel-A3 Motorsports and Manny Sy of Primos Racedevils head the field when the fifth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series unfolds July 5-6 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Pena and Sy figured in an exciting battle with M&M Racing-MP Turbo's Michelle Bumgarner and Team Cebu-Demvels' Tyson Sy in the Open class of this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso, ZED and Eastways. However, Sy made a big move in the final lap to rule the last leg of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

MARATHON ELIMS
More than 4,000 running enthusiasts, students and long distance runners answered the opening gun of the second regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon in Roxas City last Sunday. Adonis Lobaton of Iloilo City and Gloria Diaz of Roxas City topped their respective divisions. Supported by Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Dept. of Tourism and My Globe, the Milo Marathon elimination race goes to Tuguegarao City, Cagayan this Sunday.

D'backs pad win run to 12; Phillies prevail



CHICAGO Cubs' Sammy Sosa (right) is forced out at second base as Philadelphia Phillies' second baseman Placido Polanco completes the double play on Moises Alou at first in the fourth inning. AP

DENVER—Luis Gonzalez led the Arizona Diamondbacks to their 12th straight victory with two homers and five RBIs, including a three-run shot in the 12th inning for an 8-7 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Monday.

Arizona's streak is both a franchise record and the longest in the majors this season.

Matt Kata had a club record-tying five hits, the last an RBI double in the 12th that put Arizona ahead 5-4. He also homered.

Pinch-hitter Chris Stynes hit a three-run homer with two outs in the Colorado 12th.

Stephen Randolph (3-0) pitched the 11th to earn the win. Jose Jimenez (0-4) worked two innings.

With one out in the Arizona 12th, David Dellucci walked, stole second and scored on Kata's double past diving first baseman Todd Helton. Carlos Baerga singled and, with two outs, Gonzalez hit his 17th homer.

In Philadelphia, Jim Thome's two-run homer in the seventh inning led Phillies to its sixth straight win over Chicago.

Vicente Padilla (7-7) pitched seven strong innings as the Phillies won for the 11th time in 13 games to close within 5½ games of first-place Atlanta in the National League East. Philadelphia was 10 games behind the Braves on June 18.

Cubs starter Shawn Estes (6-7) gave up four runs and seven hits in seven innings.

COMPLETE RESULTS:

AMERICAN LEAGUE—Cleveland 10, Kansas City 5 (Game 1); Cleveland 8, Kansas City 5 (Game 2; Detroit 6, Toronto 2; NY Yankees 6, Baltimore 5; Chicago White Sox 10, Minnesota 3; Seattle 3, Oakland 1; Texas 6, Anaheim 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE—Florida 8, Atlanta 1; NY Mets 3, Montreal 1; Philadelphia 4, Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 5, St. Louis 1; Arizona 8, Colorado 7 (12 innings). *Reuters*

IOC chief: We don't need Beckham

BECKHAM AP

PRAGUE, Czech Republic—London should forget the idea of using soccer star David Beckham to promote its 2012 Olympic bid.

Beckham may be a worldwide celebrity, but IOC president Jacques Rogge says he and other IOC members won't be impressed if the England captain gets in on the Olympic bandwagon.

"What is the credibility of a football player who is not going to participate in the games to say 'Give the games to my city?'" Rogge said at a news conference Monday. Beckham is leaving Manchester United to sign this week with Real Madrid. Meanwhile, Beckham takes a step nearer completing his move to Real Madrid on Tuesday when he completes a sponsored medical.

The former Manchester United idol will be officially unveiled as the La Liga champion's latest signing on Wednesday, assuming he comes through the three-hour work-out at the Clinica de La Zarzuela.

Apart from the broken metatarsal he sustained before the 2002 World Cup, Beckham has had few injuries in his career and there is little to suggest the 28-year-old will experience any difficulties.

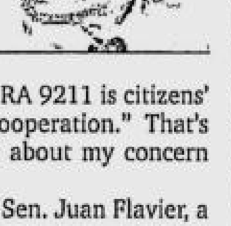
However, he did break a bone in his hand playing in a friendly against South Africa in May.

Spanish private health company Sanitas reportedly paid $400,000 to sponsor his medical, which will be screened live on Real Madrid TV.

The 28-year-old will be given a police escort to the clinic for the fitness tests, which will also be beamed around the globe by broadcasters who have bought the rights. *AP, AFP*

Are casinos exempted from no-smoking law?

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PAGCOR-RUN casinos located at the Holiday Inn, Grand Boulevard and the Heritage Hotel are not only public places frequented by people who gamble, but they are also enclosed public places which, in my opinion, could very well be covered by the Republic Act 9211, also known as the Tobacco Regulation Act. But how come several casino players smoke inside the premises despite the passage of the anti-smoking law? Are the casinos exempted from this law?

I don't know exactly the scope of RA 9211 that's why I'm asking this question. Methinks the government should launch (like it did in its successful anti-SARS campaign) a massive information drive to better guide the public of those prohibited places covered by the new law.

The government is very vocal about the need to strictly obey the anti-smoking ban in all public places, but it seems to implement a different set of rule when it comes to the casinos. Why? As columnist Ana Marie Pamintuan wrote recently, "the best hope for the successful implementation of RA 9211 is citizens' vigilance and cooperation." That's why I'm writing about my concern right now.

Sponsored by Sen. Juan Flavier, a former health secretary of "Yosi Kadiri" fame, violators of RA 9211 could be meted out heavy fines and jailed for up to three years. The tough new law, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on June 23, also imposes a total ban on all tobacco advertising as well as sponsorships of sports, cultural or educational activities effective on July 1, 2008.

***

THE MAN TO WATCH. For many, the biggest threat to sentimental favorite Efren "Bata" Reyes in the RP-Europe 9-Ball Billiards Tournament which gets going today is bald-headed German player Ralf "The Kaisen" Souquet, who won an incredible 160 tournaments in Europe, earning him European Player of the Year in 1989, 1992 and 1995. The 35-year-old Souquet, who once served his country in the air force for two years, also won the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff in 1996 and the World Pool Masters Tournament in 1996, and 2000, making mincemeat of the cream of the crop. While in the German air force, he took part in an elite athletic program and was awarded Germany's high sports honor.

In 1996, Souquet made his strong presence felt by leading Team Europe to victory in the World 9-Ball Challenge in Hong Kong, beating Team Asia and Team America and copping the first prize of $60,000. It was Souquet who sparked Team Europe, which included countryman Oliver Ortmann and Britons Steve Davis, many-time world snooker champion, and Jimmy "The Whirlwind" White, in defeating Team Asia, composed of Bata Reyes Francisco "Django Bustamante", Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam in the finals.

Billiards benefactor Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, who witnessed the three-cornered tournament, was so impressed by the performance of the two Germans he commented afterward that Souquet played as efficiently as a BMW car and Ortmann as smoothly as a Mercedes Benz.

Souquet highlighted this year by winning the 2003 BCA (Billiards Congress of America) Open 9-Ball Championship, earning a fat paycheck of $15,000. Bustamante finished second and won $7,500 while Mika Immonen landed third and pocketed $4,800.

***

2005 SEAG MASCOT. The Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) should pursue its choice of the Philippine tarsier as mascot of the 2005 SEA Games here. Rep. Monico Puentevella, a former PSC commissioner, said the Philsoc is close to selecting the world-famous tarsier, a gentle, wide-eyed and endangered animal found only in the highlands of Bohol, as mascot of the 2005 SEAG.

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20 years . . .

From page A29

escape from Doña Buding's enormous shadow.

At the pizza parlor, Nanette is saying, "OK *din sigurong maging* clown," as a pair of jesters try to liven up the children's party. "*Mahirap din 'yung ginagawa ng* host." She does an impromptu number, mimicking the girl who tries to be entertaining despite apparently feeling bothered by an illness.

Humor on wheels

"That happens to me," says Nanette. "Like when I have to wear high heels. *Eh, kasi 'di ba para bagay sa* wardrobe. *At saka mas maganda tignan, hindi ba? Kahit ang sakit-sakit ng paa ko, sige kailangan* enjoy *pa rin.* But after the show and I'm in my dressing room, *naku, binabalibag ko na 'yung mga sapatos ko!"*

Fortunately, we won't see that tomorrow night.

Jinggoy...

From page A30

Richard, I would have defended you as well," Estrada had said. "It was just a friendly game. Richard should not have hurt our teammate (who) was much smaller than he."

But Gomez said Estrada was on the bench when the argument between him and Salvador erupted. "I was facing the teammate when (Estrada) stood up, started cursing me and slapped my head from behind," Gomez recalled.

"The fight was not even between us," added Gomez. "What he did was totally uncalled for. He cannot just hit someone and then say sorry afterward."

Gomez accused Estrada's Celine Orange team of "playing dirty."

Gomez had also been involved in a fight with fellow actor Robin Padilla over a basketball game in 1991, and in still another incident with Rudy Fernandez in 1996.

"I'm aware of what other people say about my temper," Gomez said Monday night. "But if I'm such a troublemaker and *pikon*, like what they say I am, how come these things do not happen when I compete abroad?"

Gomez is a member of the national fencing team which competed in the Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok in 1998 and in Kuala Lumpur last year.

"I'm used to competing with professionals," he said. "I don't know about them."

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
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REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUMITIBOK KUMIKIROT
CINEMA-2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
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(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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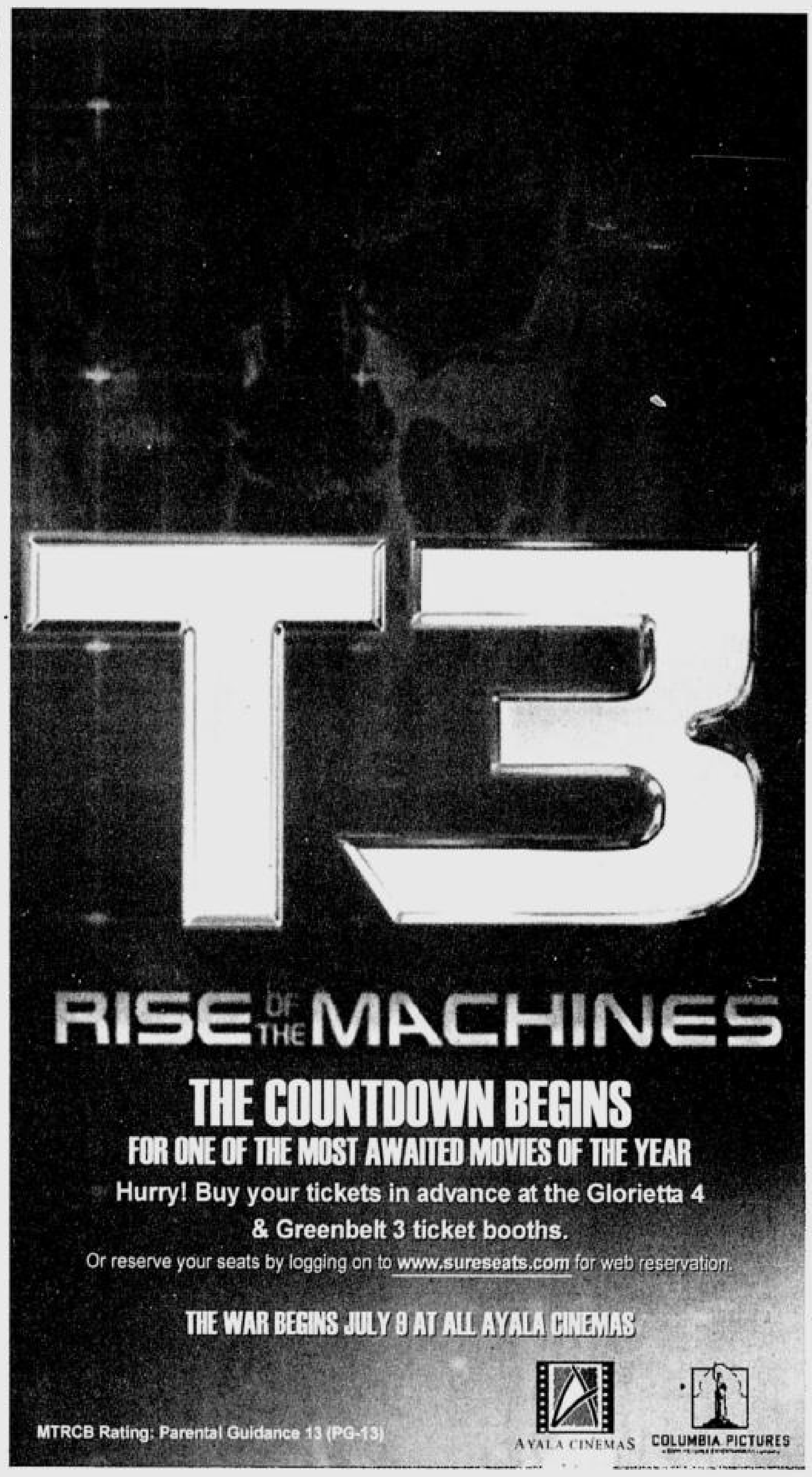
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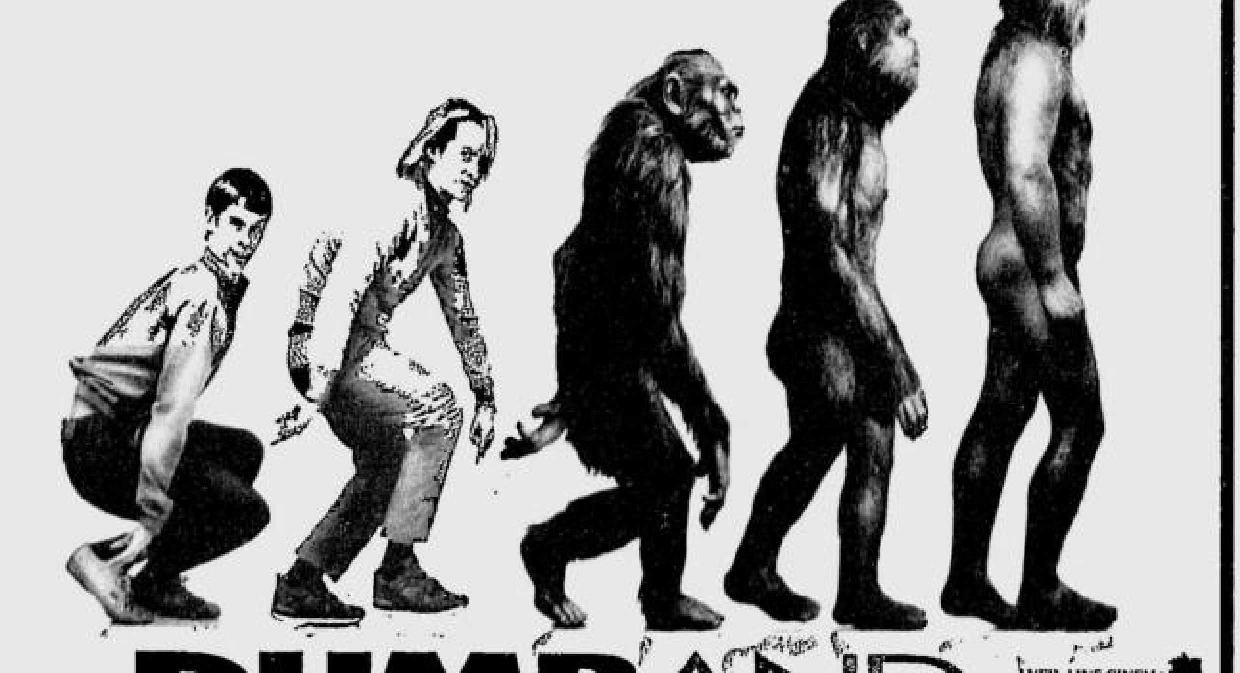
The Evolution of Dumb



DUMB AND DUMBERER
WHEN HARRY MET LLOYD
NEW LINE CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL

20 years of Nanette: So funny, so true

DID YOU KNOW...

Young star **John Prats** and talent manager and publicist **Francis Villacorta** were seen early last week at the Power Plant cineplex at Rockwell in Makati City sharing a café table with **Vittorio Barba**, the low-profile fashion designer who is a cousin of GMA 7 host **Paolo Bediones.**

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

"YOU'RE right," nods Nanette Inventor, pointing to a little boy in a checkered shirt and beige shorts. "He's the birthday boy."

We're in the Tomas Morato branch of a pizza chain this Saturday afternoon, and the singer-comedian is momentarily sidetracked by the merry goings-on at the nearby tables.

"Good and highly entertaining comedy starts with good material," Nanette tells us. Yes, she gets lots of ideas by observing people. In fact, her surefire hit punchlines involve Filipinos' foibles and peculiarities as a people. "Relate *na* relate *na kaagad ang* audience *d'yan*," she laughs.

One of the country's enduring and endearing comediennes also draws inspiration from her own experiences. Not many people know, for instance, that Nanette was only 19 when she earned her degree in foreign service from the University of the Philippines. But since one had to be at least 21 years old to qualify for an exam given by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Nanette felt she couldn't be idle for two years so she decided to take a job as researcher at the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications.

"During my time, *sama-sama sila diyan*," the entertainer, now 50, points out with a chuckle. "So I also experienced how to be part of the bureaucracy."

So when she depicts a woman caught up in red tape, we all roll in laughter because it's so true and thus very funny.

Sharing her bouts with post-menopausal symptoms sound hilarious, too. Combating type-2 diabetes, on the other hand, is nothing to laugh at, but it has made Nanette more health conscious. She now gets extra energy from her regular aero and taebo workouts.

Nanette, a former member of the UP Concert Chorus, also uses music to entertain her audience. She can either sing songs with hilarious lyrics or give serious renditions of her favorites like "If We Only Have Love," "This is My Life" and "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman," and both ways will surely bring the house down. Who could ever forget Nanette leading a choir of fake nuns in Mike de Leon's "Kakaba-kaba"?

Solo launch

Nanette had been doing backup and singing commercial jingles when she was spotted by writer-director Joey Reyes in a musical show at the Manila Hotel 20 years ago. At that time, Channel 7's "Penthouse Live" was looking for a replacement for its resident musical comic, Cynthia Patag, who had just met a vehicular accident.

Two months after that fateful meeting with Joey, Nanette auditioned and immediately bagged the role of the snooty and vain but utterly lovable Doña Buding, launching her career in the biz as a solo act in the process.

INVENTOR

It's been 20 blessed years and Nanette is throwing an anniversary bash—with Star Concepts and her management outfit, Manila Genesis, as producers—tomorrow night, July 3, at Onstage in Greenbelt 1. She's cooking up a special treat using her winning recipe for humor and music.

Nanette's sole guest star is Gary Valenciano, who is also celebrating his own two decades in the entertainment industry. "He was ahead of me by just a few months," she volunteers. "He was launched in March. Zsa Zsa (Padilla) and I were together. Martin (Nievera) was just one year ahead of us. We even had a concert called 'Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat.'"

Carried away

As for Doña Buding's expected appearance at her Onstage gig, Nanette agrees that she can't dissociate herself from her famous alter ego, though it's been 17 years since Martin and Pops Fernandez's TV show folded up.

Others can get too carried away, too. Nanette remembers that while she was on her way to her car after one show at the Folk Arts Theater, a hefty woman grabbed her necklace and ran away with it.

"*Akala niya totoong mamahaling alahas,*" she sighs. "*Ayun,* I was black and blue and they had to rush me to the hospital."

To this day, people still call her Doña Buding, but Nanette has established herself as a singer-comedian who also appears in comedies and sitcoms. Her manager then, Ronnie Henares, had made it a point to accept projects that would distinguish Nanette from Doña Buding. Thus, while she was still doing "Penthouse Live," she also teamed up with Mitch Valdes in a sitcom called "UFO (Urbana, Feliza and Others)."

She later did "In Da Money," Joey's first attempt at directing, and then "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata" that made her totally

20 YEARS / A28

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THE HUNTED R13 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	DUMB & DUMBERER PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

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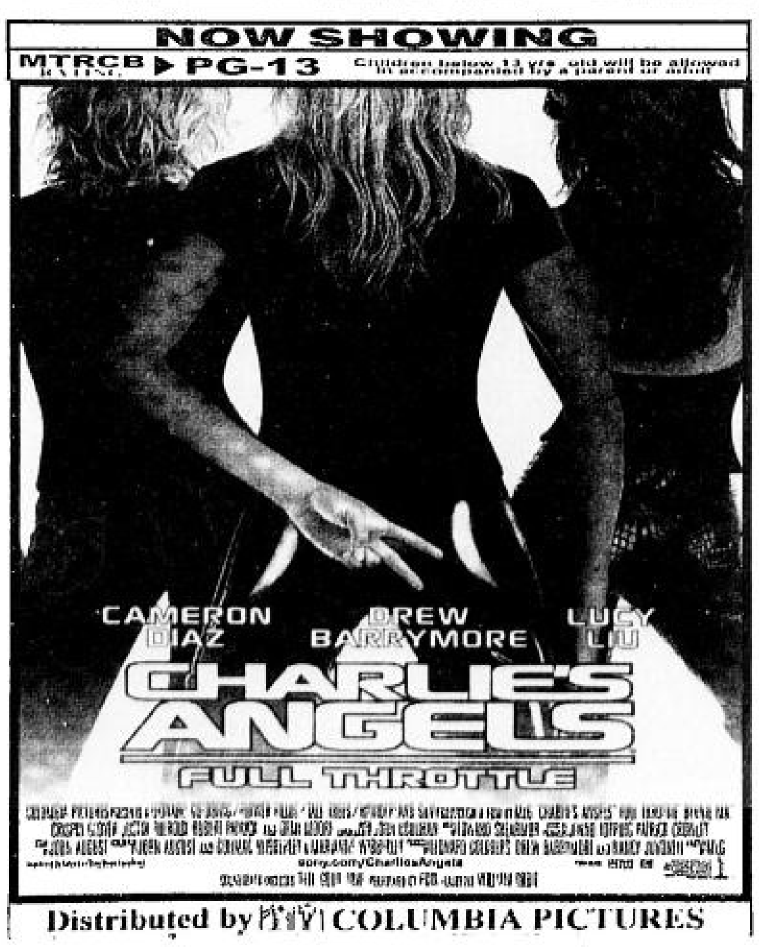

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Speculative look into the distant future

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY TV, documentary series concern themselves with our planet's past, showing how the dinosaurs flourished and died off, and how apes evolved into hominids, and then into humans. This fascination with distant past is mitigated by the fossil record that researchers continue to dig up.

But what about the distant future? To speculate about that in a TV series would be to venture into the generally unknown, an undiscovered country where even science fiction would falter due to the absence of supporting facts, or fall victim to a colossal lack of imagination.

Despite these risks, the Discovery Channel has opted to venture into our planet's speculative future by way of its new weekly series, "The Future is Wild," which kicks off with a two-hour special at 9 p.m. on July 5.

Viewers will experience the Earth through state-of-the-art computer-generated imagery that transports them into the unbelievable world of the future. And we're not talking 5,000 years from now—try 5 million, and that's just for starters!

That's right, the series is interested in projecting a revolutionary view of evolution that enables viewers to picture a planet Earth that may even be devoid of humans.

It is "scientifically speculated" that, by that distant time, the human race shall have left the planet to populate the solar system.

Thus, the planet shall have been inhabited by highly-evolved plant and animal life forms beyond our imagination today.

Says who?

Well, based on current methodological thinking from scientists all over the world, these speculations are deemed to be well-founded, because they are developed within the context of the environmental and genetic elements that affect evolutionary development.

After viewers get used to the series' view of the planet 5 million years from now, the revolutionary voyage to the evolving future becomes even mind-boggling because the show takes a quantum leap to even more distant possibilities of life on Earth 100 million, and then 200 million years from now!

Interestingly, scientists speculate that, while the guiding forces of evolution may change the creatures on our planet, their basic survival rules would probably remain the same: finding a mate, feeding offspring, and defending against predators. What goes around, comes around!

After July 5's introductory special, the series proper starts off at 9 p.m. on July 12, and concludes with Episode 6 on Aug. 4.

Let's get on board for the heady ride into the heretofore unimagined.

Nanette Inventor
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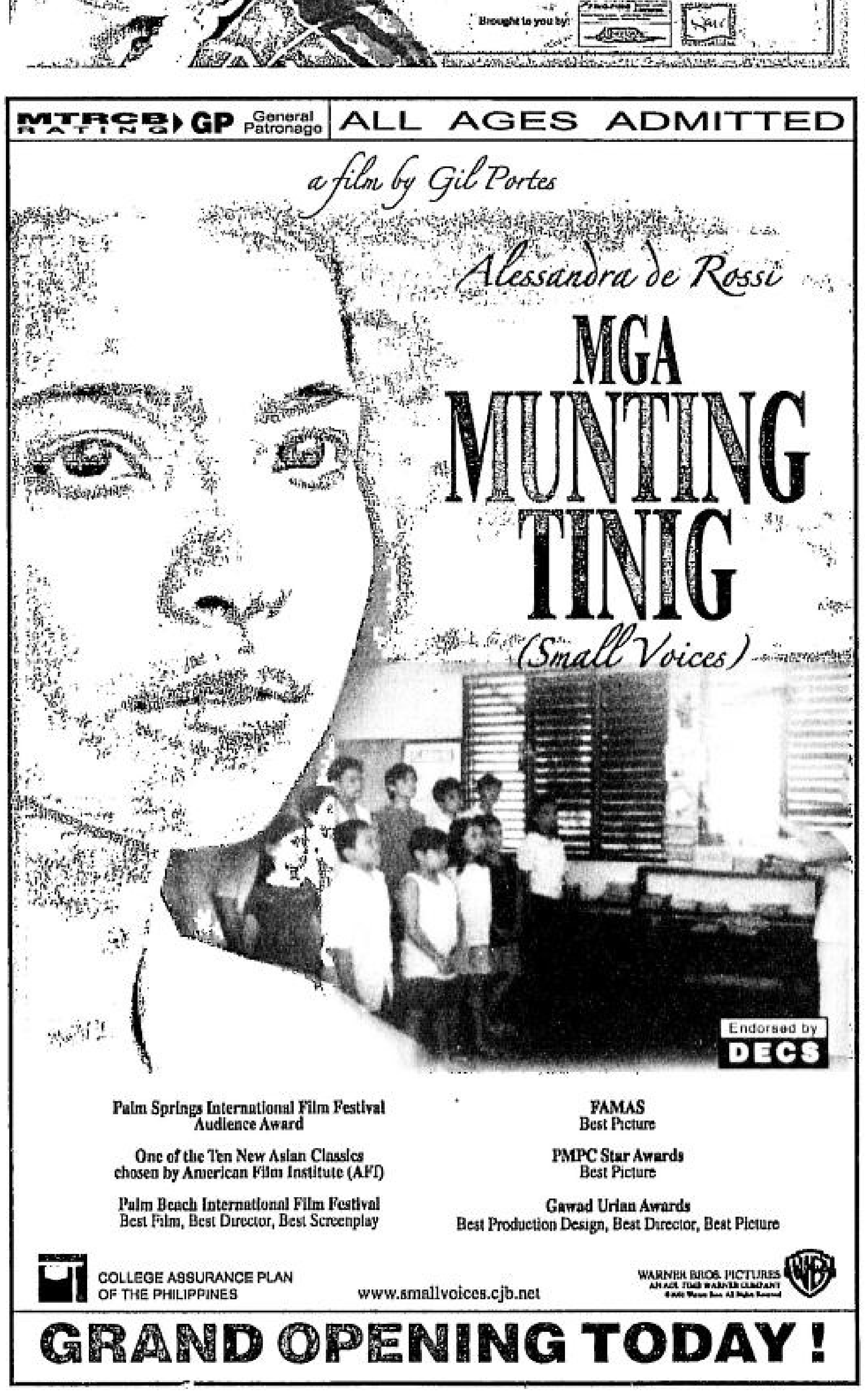

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Ali 5 THE HUNTED
Ali 6 CHARLIES ANGELS
Ali 7 28 DAYS LATER
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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

GOMEZ

Jinggoy says sorry, but 'Goma started it'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"STOP saying sorry if you don't mean it."

That was the response of actor and GMA 7 talk show host Richard Gomez to colleague Jinggoy Estrada following their fight during a basketball game last Sunday.

Estrada, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada and who is also the former.mayor of San Juan, had apologized to Gomez on television on Monday night for hitting the latter in the head during a goodwill game in the annual Star Olympics at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

But Estrada yesterday afternoon told INQUIRER Entertainment that Gomez had provoked his (Estrada's) teammates.

Estrada said Gomez should watch the video tape of the game.

"It was upon his provocation," Estrada said. "He is known for being a poor sport."

Monday night, Gomez told INQUIRER Entertainment: "Jinggoy apologized because he wanted to be the underdog. He is out on bail and cannot afford to lose his freedom by getting into trouble."

Jinggoy, along with his father, is accused of plundering the economy and pocketing payoffs and kickbacks during the former president's 31 months in office. Father and son were detained with his father at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City for two years until Jinggoy was released last March 7. The elder Estrada remains detained.

Told of Gomez's reaction to his apology, Estrada said, "I don't want to magnify this issue anymore. I've already said my piece. If Richard thinks I'm not sincere, I can't do anything more."

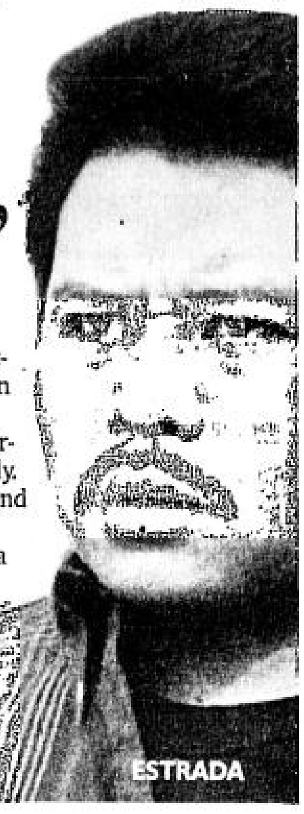
Estrada's Celine Orange team and Gomez's Snaku Green team competed for the third and fourth places in the Star Olympics.

Estrada admitted in the TV interview that he had acted impulsively. He said he was only trying to defend his teammate, Caloy Salvador.

He said Gomez gave Salvador a "head butt" after Gomez and Salvador got into an argument over the rules of the game.

"If someone did that to you,

AFTER/ A28



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Listen - Stonefree	G48
I Will Be There- Kyla	G49

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RETAIL T-BOND SALES: P74.31B

Gov't awash with cash

By Clarissa S. Batino

NOW awash with cash after raising P74.31 billion from the sale of retail treasury bonds, the government has reduced the remaining $900 million in foreign financing requirement for 2003 by $500 million and has started booking orders for as much as $1 billion in 10-year bonds.

A strong cash position implies that local interest rates will continue to go down, a condition that usually spurs lending and increased economic activity. The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate has remained modest at 5.498 percent although higher than the all-time low of 4.299 percent set in April 2001.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said foreign underwriters Citigroup Global Markets, Deutsche Bank Securities and JP Morgan have started taking orders for the sovereign bond issue.

He said the government would know within the week as to how much orders were booked and then decide how much it would want to take.

The government chose to borrow for the cash-strapped National Power Corp. after the power firm scrapped last week what would have been an expensive $500-million bond float.

Market sources said the proceeds from the retail bonds reached P74.31 billion as of the last count, up from P63.7 billion a week ago. Last year, RTB sales gave the government P63 billion.

"We are honored to have once again executed another highly successful benchmark transaction on behalf of the (Philippine government). This maiden issue under the new "Program Mechanics" creates a successful precedence for the (government) to directly access retail institutional investors independently with ease," HSBC Philippine branch head of investment banking Joel Consing said. HSBC is the bookrunner for the deal.

The "Program Mechanics" scheme refers to the standardized procedures and processes established to allow the national government in the future to issue RTBs to investors at less cost and in a shorter period of time by doing away with the need for underwriters.

With the substantial funds raised from the bond offer, the Bureau of Treasury has cancelled P9 billion worth of local bond issues and cut treasury bill sale this month by P6 billion.

The government's cash position had improved significantly compared to last year. So far, the government has met its deficit targets in April and May and is on track with its full-year fiscal gap goal of P202 billion. *With a report from Elena Torrijos*

Unchecked fiscal deficit seen leading to debt crisis

A DEBT crisis could erupt in the next three to five years if the government would fail to solve the budget deficit problem by improving tax collection and even mandating new taxes, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho warned yesterday.

The Philippines was hit by a debt crunch in the early 1980s when the government was unable to borrow to finance maturing debts after creditors became worried due to the extensive risks the country posed during the final years of the late dictator Marcos.

After the juetengate scandal erupted in October 2000, the country was on the brink of a similar crisis as creditors and investors sought huge spreads from their investments in Philippine debt papers toward the end of 2001 given the perceived risks under the Estrada administration.

"It is a fact that our level of public debt is higher than we would want. Unless we can reverse the trend on our fiscal deficit, however, this risk becomes greater," the finance chief said during a speech before the Rotary Club of Makati yesterday.

Camacho said the government, unlike in the past, was now open to consider pushing for new taxes on top of pending legislation on the indexation of beer and tobacco, rationalization of incentives, overhaul of the excise taxes on motor vehicles, among others.

"We must consider introducing new taxes especially on the more buoyant sectors of our economy," said the finance chief.

Camacho stressed that the government must focus on reducing the deficit and bringing it down to zero over time because the public debt would continue to swell as the government operates under a fiscal burden.

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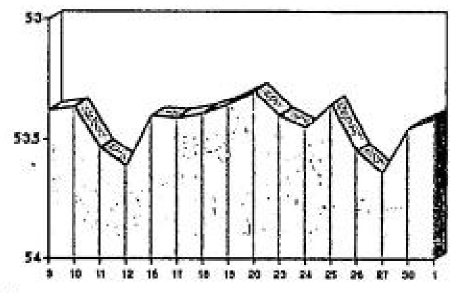

JUNE

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P 51.665 = $ 1

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¥ 119.72 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 1, 2003

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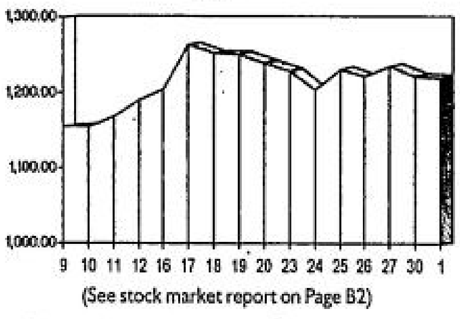
per ounce Hong Kong, June 30, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JUNE



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks down slightly

SHARE prices closed little changed, dropping just 0.14 percent yesterday as investors took profits in the absence of fresh leads, dealers said.

They said investors remained cautious, awaiting second-quarter earnings to see how companies were doing against a background of reasonable economic data and hopes for a distinct second half pick-up.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 1.69 points to 1,221.11 having traded between 1,210.50 and 1,223.53.

"The resumption of buying interest will depend on fresh news and the guidance we get from companies on their second quarter performance," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Dealers said the market was also waiting to hear from the central bank on interest rates, with its board meeting today.

Turnover was 403.4 million shares worth P554.3 million compared with 678.59 million shares worth P494.62 million traded on Monday. *AFP*

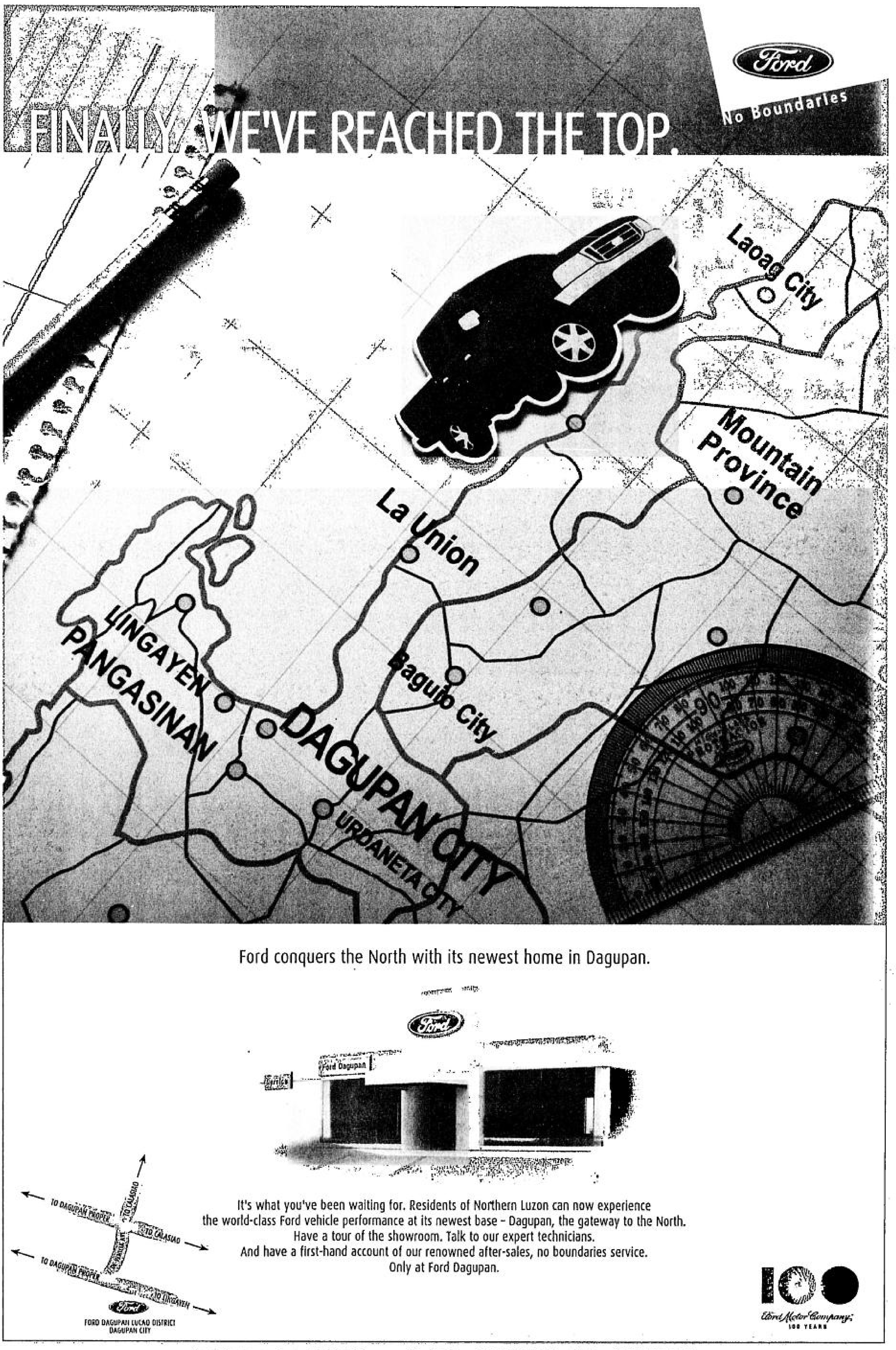
PEP, Nextmobile eye merger

PUBLICLY listed movie and entertainment outfit Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. (PEP) is negotiating a merger deal with wireless service provider Next Mobile Philippines Inc.

A PEP disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday did not provide details, but the proposed merger is expected to result in the backdoor listing of Nextmobile, which is seeking to take over a 70-percent stake in cash-strapped telecommunications firm Capitol Wireless Inc. (Capwire).

PEP, which earlier disclosed that it was discussing a joint-venture agreement with Nextmobile, yesterday announced that the companies have now signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct a formal due-diligence audit.

The audit will be for "the purpose of determining the terms and conditions for a possible merger of both companies," the PEP disclosure said.



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SEC seeks local gov't units' help in regulating lending investors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is asking local government units not to grant or renew business permits of lending investors that have not converted into financing companies.

The SEC earlier said it would continue accepting applications for conversion of lending investors into financing companies although the official deadline for application expired last June 6.

The SEC said lending investors that continued to operate without applying for conversion might face criminal cases.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista yesterday said lending investors were now in technical violation of the Financing Company Act, the Securities Regulation Code and Central Bank Act.

The SEC said there were lending investors that have not yet been reorganized as financing companies.

As financing companies, lending investors are required to comply with certain minimum capital and reportorial requirements.

Lawmakers are currently deliberating on bills that would put the regulation of lending investors under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Based on an opinion of the Department of Justice dated Sept. 17, lending investors without quasi bank functions fall under the jurisdiction of the SEC.

Considering that there was no specific law regulating lending investors, the commission promulgated Memorandum Circular No. 13 in 2001 to serve as the guidelines to govern this sector.

The circular required lending investors to convert into financing corporations.

Under the Financing Company Act, finance companies operating in Metro Manila and other first class cities must have a minimum paid-up capital of P10 million; at least P5 million if they are operating in other cities, and at least P2.5 million if they are located in municipalities.

NEC expects to collect $237M from Digitel

JAPANESE telecommunications equipment supplier NEC Corp. is confident it will be able to win a $237-million collection case against Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. for unpaid equipment and services.

"We really believe we have a strong case. It's just a simple collection case. We will win in arbitration," Yoshifumi Matsubara, president of NEC's wholly owned subsidiary NEC Philippines Inc., said in a news briefing yesterday.

NEC was Digitel's supplier for the $260-million NX2 Project, which involved the expansion of the telecom firm's public switch telephone system in regions 1 to 4. The project agreement was signed in 1995, with NEC installing around 250,000 landlines by 1999.

Under the agreed payment scheme, Digitel would make its first payment to NEC three years after the signing of the contract. But the Gokongwei-owned firm sought a new payment schedule, which NEC agreed to under a new contract signed in 1999.

The new contract stated that 14 installment payments would be made, payable up to 2007.

Abigail L. Ho

BIR team formed to study Meralco's P9-B refund claim

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has formed a team that will study Manila Electric Co.'s demand for a P9-billion income tax refund.

Meralco said it deserved the rebate considering that it was ordered by the Supreme Court to refund consumers P29 billion in excess charges.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said he had chosen the BIR personnel who would look into Meralco's case.

The team is tasked to analyze whether Meralco has to be given a rebate and to assess the accuracy of the P9-billion tax claim.

BIR and Meralco officials are set to meet within the week to discuss the utility's claim that it should be refunded the P9 billion in income tax that it paid for the period covering 1994 to 2003.

"The BIR has yet to receive a formal request from Meralco, but I don't mind meeting with them to discuss their concern," said Parayno in an interview.

Reports quoted Meralco officials as saying that they would demand for the refund of income taxes paid during the period covered.

A source from the BIR said Meralco's claim would not affect much the agency's finances, since the P9-billion tax claim would be covered by the taxes on the refund to corporate clients.

"Meralco's corporate customers to be given a refund will have to pay additional corporate income taxes to the BIR for the period covered. The refund would mean that their incomes for the period covered would go higher after the amount they spent to pay Meralco are returned," the source said.

Since collecting additional tax from all corporate clients of Meralco is seen to be complicated, the source said the BIR might simply collect the taxes through Meralco.

RESERVE REQUIREMENT AT 17%

BSP seen to keep key policy rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is inclined to keep its banks' reserve requirement at 17 percent since there is sufficient liquidity in the system to spur economic growth.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said monetary authorities were also likely to keep the BSP's overnight rates steady at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending when they meet today, despite the US Federal Reserve's move to cut its rates last week.

"We will make a presentation to the Monetary Board on the current liquidity and credit situation. Right now, there seems to be sufficient liquidity in the system but you don't know what the situation will be in a couple of months or so," he said.

However, Buenaventura said the Monetary Board had to decide on whether it would unleash additional liquidity now or wait until there was a need for additional funds.

Sources from the central bank said the Monetary Board would likely wait for a few more months before bringing back the mandatory reserve requirement on banks to 16 percent.

The BSP raised the reserve level to 17 percent in March to mop up some P13 billion in excess liquidity that could have been used to speculate against the peso, which fell to an all-time low of 55.099 to $1 on March 12.

"The bias is to keep a neutral stance on the overnight rates as current interest rates already discounted the move of the US Fed. But if there is a need for additional liquidity, the Fed cut gives us the flexibility to consider adjustments," said the BSP chief.

Buenaventura stressed that the Monetary Board would only reduce the reserve requirement if the current money supply level was already affecting the government's growth forecasts.

"Liquidity is a function of domestic need. There is no need to fuel inflation unnecessarily if the economy does not need the additional liquidity," he said.

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
*Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,270,000
*Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
*Baguio Country Club	Please Call	700,000
*Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
*Calatagan Golf Club "B"		80,000
*Camp John Hay	-	230,000
*Canlubang	450,000	550,000
*Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
*Capitol Hills	120,000	160,000
*Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
*Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
*Club Filipino	130,000	160,000
vercrest "A"		80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	200,000
*Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
*Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
*Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
*Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
*Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
*Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,250,000
*Manila Southwoods "A"	420,000	500,000
*Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
*Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
*Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
*Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
*Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
*Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
*Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
*Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
*Puerto Azul		100,000
*Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
*Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
*Sherwood Hills "A"		80,000
*Sherwood Hills "B"		130,000
*Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
*Sta. Elena "A"	1,130,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
*Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
*Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	760,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	-

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Deutsche Bank seeks partners

By Elena R. Torrijos

IN LINE with its business strategy for Asia, Deutsche Bank, one of the world's leading global banks, plans to tie up with financial institutions in the Philippines and other countries in the region for the development of retail products.

"The core of our business is our relationship with financial institutions and we don't compete with domestic and regional financial institutions, we partner with them. They are our clients," Deutsche Bank chief executive for Asia-Pacific Ken Borda said.

One specific area where Deutsche Bank sees further growth and increased partnership is in the "white-labeling" of products wherein the bank designs, packages and delivers a wholesale institutional product and tailor-fit it to the retail marker under the brand of another financial institution.

"We are a natural partner for this in the Philippines and around the region," Borda pointed out.

Other growth areas, according to Deutsche Bank, are the asset management and private wealth management businesses.

In the Philippines, Deutsche Bank country manager Enrico Cruz said the foreign bank would focus on three areas: the development of more debt instruments, provision of assistance to clients in risk management, and meeting considerable demand for yield-enhancing instruments and products.

Cruz noted that vital to the development of the country's capital markets were structural reforms to facilitate delivery-versus-payment system that would provide efficient settlement of cash and clearing accounts.

Cruz said the bank's core strength in the Philippines was primarily from its cash management business, and sales and trading platform, which covers foreign exchange, money market, fixed income, derivatives and equities.

Deutsche Bank has roughly $802 billion in assets and about 70,900 employees in 76 countries throughout the world.

StanChart counters exec's claims

STANDARD Chartered Bank yesterday said preparations were made to counter the charges of a suspended bank officer.

SCB head of HR service delivery and industrial policy Manuel Baviera filed on Monday a complaint against SCB for selling unregistered securities in violation of the Securities Regulation Code by offering foreign mutual funds to bank employees and customers.

StanChart chief executive for the Philippines Simon Morris, in an interview, said the bank was not selling and, as far as he knew, had not sold Global Third Party Mutual Funds in violation of the country's laws as alleged by a senior official of the bank.

Morris said Baveria's actions were simply that of a disgruntled employee.

StanChart's external counsel Reynaldo Geronimo said the accusations were spurious. "We will use the proper legal forum to resolve this matter to serve the best interest of the bank, its customers and employees," Geronimo said.

In a related development, the SEC yesterday said it would hear the complaint of Baviera to decide whether criminal action was necessary against SCB.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the agency would inform the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas of the case but that the corporate watchdog would conduct its own probe independently.

Elena R. Torrijos

INTEREST RATES

July 01, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 1-Jul-03	MART1 30-Jun-03
1 Month	6.5286	6.5304
3 Months	6.8327	6.6643
6 Months	7.5542	7.4411
1 Year	7.8817	7.8283
2 Years	8.7867	8.8
3 Years	9.8067	9.7867
4 Years	10.22	10.1943
5 Years	10.4967	10.5067
7 Years	11.3167	11.3417
10 Years	11.6667	11.6883
20 Years	12.0833	12.0867
25 Years	12.445	12.4383

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 1, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.5	18.75	21,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	46	989,100
China Banking Corp.	730	730	730	730	1,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31	31	30.5	30.5	84,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29	29.5	592,700
Philippine National Bank	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	14,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	17,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1470	1470	1470	220
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	80,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1080	1060	1080	2,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.75	19,800
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	605	615	605	615	13,270
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.043	0.045	5,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	14,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.2	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.41	8,150,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	565	550	560	376,340
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10	10	9.7	9.7	562,000
Manila Electric Co. B	14.5	14.75	14	14.25	887,600
Petron Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2.02	3,210,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.96	0.91	0.96	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	69,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	59,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	190,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	63,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	313,500
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.24	960,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	96,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63.5	1,614,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.6	615,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	120,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	5,579,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.032	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.57	9,500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	1,010,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,150,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	12.25	12.25	11.5	12.25	859,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	65	65	65	65	100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.74	318,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	1,430,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	37,940,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1	1	1	1	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.64	21,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	2,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.5	19	18.5	19	159,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	4,538,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,250,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.205	13,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	9,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	3,217,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.16	2,230,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,750,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	2,465,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	80,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	143,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,820,090	71,076,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	113,278,610	430,718,745.00
PRO	38,210,000	51,441,300.00
Mining	23,100,000	269,100.00
OIL	226,600,000	694,800.00
GRAND TOTALS	403,008,700	554,200,695.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	425.84	DOWN 2.72
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,748.60	DOWN 2.22
PRO	538.41	UP 3.21
Mining	1,142.57	DOWN 12.34
OIL	1.28	UP 0.03
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	733.26	UP 2.97
Composite	1,221.11	DOWN 1.69

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED independent directors of First e-Bank Corp. were Melito Salazar and Enrique Esteban.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22 with record date on July 23.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. tentatively set its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 11.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 30 to Aug. 27 with record date on July 14.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Philex Mining Corp. were Henry Brimo, Gerard Brimo, Bernardino Abes, Corazon de la Paz, Albert Awad, John Gokongwei Jr., Antonio Go, Manuel Zamora Jr. and Barbara Anne Migallos.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. were Alfonso Yuchengco, Rizalino Navarro, Cesar Virata, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Susanne Santos, Masaharu Oshima, Yasuhiro Matsumoto, Teodoro Regala, Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Teodoro Peña and Armando Medina.

* * *

IPEOPLE Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.05 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 11 and will be paid on Aug. 6.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 22, 3 p.m. at the CEU boardroom, San Miguel, Manila. Stockholders of record as of June 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 1, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.868206	1.000000	53.522000
Japan	Yen	0.007253	0.008354	0.447100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437402	1.655600	88.611000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111340	0.128241	6.863700
Switzerland	Franc	0.642925	0.740521	39.634200
Canada	Dollar	0.644022	0.741785	39.701800
Singapore	Dollar	0.493243	0.568117	30.406800
Australia	Dollar	0.582572	0.671006	35.913600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.302995	2.652590	141.971900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231522	0.266667	14.272600
Brunei	Dollar	0.491846	0.566508	30.320600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020642	0.023776	1.272500
UAE	Dirham	0.236388	0.272272	14.572500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.151800	61.646600
Argentina	Peso	0.309521	0.356506	19.080900
Brazil	Real	0.303462	0.349528	18.707400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134601	0.155034	8.297700
India	Rupee	0.018752	0.021598	1.156000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228506	0.263193	14.086600
Mexico	New Peso	0.083066	0.095675	5.120700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509451	0.586786	31.406000
Norway	Kroner	0.120524	0.138819	7.429900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015047	0.017331	0.927600
South Africa	Rand	0.116045	0.133661	7.153800
Korea	Won	0.000728	0.000838	0.044900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108800	0.125316	6.707200
Syria	Pound	0.020672	0.023810	1.274400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025156	0.028977	1.550900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000544	0.000627	0.033600

SEC seeks local gov't units' help in regulating lending investors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is asking local government units not to grant or renew business permits of lending investors that have not converted into financing companies.

The SEC earlier said it would continue accepting applications for conversion of lending investors into financing companies although the official deadline for application expired last June 6.

The SEC said lending investors that continued to operate without applying for conversion might face criminal cases.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista yesterday said lending investors were now in technical violation of the Financing Company Act, the Securities Regulation Code and Central Bank Act.

The SEC said there were lending investors that have not yet been reorganized as financing companies.

As financing companies, lending investors are required to comply with certain minimum capital and reportorial requirements.

Lawmakers are currently deliberating on bills that would put the regulation of lending investors under the Department of Trade and Industry.

Based on an opinion of the Department of Justice dated Sept. 17, lending investors without quasi bank functions fall under the jurisdiction of the SEC.

Considering that there was no specific law regulating lending investors, the commission promulgated Memorandum Circular No. 13 in 2001 to serve as the guidelines to govern this sector.

The circular required lending investors to convert into financing corporations.

Under the Financing Company Act, finance companies operating in Metro Manila and other first class cities must have a minimum paid-up capital of P10 million; at least P5 million if they are operating in other cities, and at least P2.5 million if they are located in municipalities.

NEC expects to collect $237M from Digitel

JAPANESE telecommunications equipment supplier NEC Corp. is confident it will be able to win a $237-million collection case against Gokongwei-owned Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. for unpaid equipment and services.

"We really believe we have a strong case. It's just a simple collection case. We will win in arbitration," Yoshifumi Matsubara, president of NEC's wholly owned subsidiary NEC Philippines Inc., said in a news briefing yesterday.

NEC was Digitel's supplier for the $260-million NX2 Project, which involved the expansion of the telecom firm's public switch telephone system in regions 1 to 4. The project agreement was signed in 1995, with NEC installing around 250,000 landlines by 1999.

Under the agreed payment scheme, Digitel would make its first payment to NEC three years after the signing of the contract. But the Gokongwei-owned firm sought a new payment schedule, which NEC agreed to under a new contract signed in 1999.

The new contract stated that 14 installment payments would be made, payable up to 2007.

Abigail L. Ho

BIR team formed to study Meralco's P9-B refund claim

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has formed a team that will study Manila Electric Co.'s demand for a P9-billion income tax refund.

Meralco said it deserved the rebate considering that it was ordered by the Supreme Court to refund consumers P29 billion in excess charges.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said he had chosen the BIR personnel who would look into Meralco's case.

The team is tasked to analyze whether Meralco has to be given a rebate and to assess the accuracy of the P9-billion tax claim.

BIR and Meralco officials are set to meet within the week to discuss the utility's claim that it should be refunded the P9 billion in income tax that it paid for the period covering 1994 to 2003.

"The BIR has yet to receive a formal request from Meralco, but I don't mind meeting with them to discuss their concern," said Parayno in an interview.

Reports quoted Meralco officials as saying that they would demand for the refund of income taxes paid during the period covered.

A source from the BIR said Meralco's claim would not affect much the agency's finances, since the P9-billion tax claim would be covered by the taxes on the refund to corporate clients.

"Meralco's corporate customers to be given a refund will have to pay additional corporate income taxes to the BIR for the period covered. The refund would mean that their incomes for the period covered would go higher after the amount they spent to pay Meralco are returned," the source said.

Since collecting additional tax from all corporate clients of Meralco is seen to be complicated, the source said the BIR might simply collect the taxes through Meralco.

RESERVE REQUIREMENT AT 17%

BSP seen to keep key policy rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is inclined to keep its banks' reserve requirement at 17 percent since there is sufficient liquidity in the system to spur economic growth.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said monetary authorities were also likely to keep the BSP's overnight rates steady at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending when they meet today, despite the US Federal Reserve's move to cut its rates last week.

"We will make a presentation to the Monetary Board on the current liquidity and credit situation. Right now, there seems to be sufficient liquidity in the system but you don't know what the situation will be in a couple of months or so," he said.

However, Buenaventura said the Monetary Board had to decide on whether it would unleash additional liquidity now or wait until there was a need for additional funds.

Sources from the central bank said the Monetary Board would likely wait for a few more months before bringing back the mandatory reserve requirement on banks to 16 percent.

The BSP raised the reserve level to 17 percent in March to mop up some P13 billion in excess liquidity that could have been used to speculate against the peso, which fell to an all-time low of 55.099 to $1 on March 12.

"The bias is to keep a neutral stance on the overnight rates as current interest rates already discounted the move of the US Fed. But if there is a need for additional liquidity, the Fed cut gives us the flexibility to consider adjustments," said the BSP chief.

Buenaventura stressed that the Monetary Board would only reduce the reserve requirement if the current money supply level was already affecting the government's growth forecasts.

"Liquidity is a function of domestic need. There is no need to fuel inflation unnecessarily if the economy does not need the additional liquidity," he said.

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,270,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	-	230,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	160,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	185,000
Club Filipino	130,000	190,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	Please Call	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	230,000	270,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,800,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	420,000	500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	40,000	55,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	200,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,130,000	1,500,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	-

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Deutsche Bank seeks partners

By Elena R. Torrijos

IN LINE with its business strategy for Asia, Deutsche Bank, one of the world's leading global banks, plans to tie up with financial institutions in the Philippines and other countries in the region for the development of retail products.

"The core of our business is our relationship with financial institutions and we don't compete with domestic and regional financial institutions, we partner with them. They are our clients," Deutsche Bank chief executive for Asia-Pacific Ken Borda said.

One specific area where Deutsche Bank sees further growth and increased partnership is in the "white-labeling" of products wherein the bank designs, packages and delivers a wholesale institutional product and tailor-fit it to the retail market under the brand of another financial institution.

"We are a natural partner for this in the Philippines and around the region," Borda pointed out.

Other growth areas, according to Deutsche Bank, are the asset management and private wealth management businesses.

In the Philippines, Deutsche Bank country manager Enrico Cruz said the foreign bank would focus on three areas: the development of more debt instruments, provision of assistance to clients in risk management, and meeting considerable demand for yield-enhancing instruments and products.

Cruz noted that vital to the development of the country's capital markets were structural reforms to facilitate delivery-versus-payment system that would provide efficient settlement of cash and clearing accounts.

Cruz said the bank's core strength in the Philippines was primarily from its cash management business, and sales and trading platform, which covers foreign exchange, money market, fixed income, derivatives and equities.

Deutsche Bank has roughly $802 billion in assets and about 70,900 employees in 76 countries throughout the world.

StanChart counters exec's claims

STANDARD Chartered Bank yesterday said preparations were made to counter the charges of a suspended bank officer.

SCB head of HR service delivery and industrial policy Manuel Baviera filed on Monday a complaint against SCB for selling unregistered securities in violation of the Securities Regulation Code by offering foreign mutual funds to bank employees and customers.

StanChart chief executive for the Philippines Simon Morris, in an interview, said the bank was not selling and, as far as he knew, had not sold Global Third Party Mutual Funds in violation of the country's laws as alleged by a senior official of the bank.

Morris said Baviera's actions were simply that of a disgruntled employee.

StanChart's external counsel Reynaldo Geronimo said the accusations were spurious. "We will use the proper legal forum to resolve this matter to serve the best interest of the bank, its customers and employees," Geronimo said.

In a related development, the SEC yesterday said it would hear the complaint of Baviera to decide whether criminal action was necessary against SCB.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the agency would inform the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas of the case but that the corporate watchdog would conduct its own probe independently.

Elena R. Torrijos

INTEREST RATES

July 01, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 1-Jul-03	MART1 30-Jun-03
1 Month	6.5286	6.5304
3 Months	6.6327	6.6643
6 Months	7.5542	7.4411
1 Year	7.8817	7.8283
2 Years	8.7867	8.8
3 Years	9.8067	9.7867
4 Years	10.22	10.1943
5 Years	10.4967	10.5067
7 Years	11.3167	11.3417
10 Years	11.6667	11.6883
20 Years	12.0833	12.0867
25 Yeafs	12.445	12.4383

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 1, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.5	18.75	21,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	46	989,100
China Banking Corp.	730	730	730	730	1,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31	31	30.5	30.5	84,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29	29.5	592,700
Philippine National Bank	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.5	14,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	17,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1470	1470	1470	220
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	80,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1080	1060	1080	2,770
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.75	19,800
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	605	615	605	615	13,270
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.045	0.043	0.045	5,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	14,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.2	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.41	8,150,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	565	550	560	376,340
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10	10	9.7	9.7	562,000
Manila Electric Co. B	14.5	14.75	14	14.25	887,600
Petron Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2.02	3,210,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.96	0.91	0.96	90,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	69,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	59,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	190,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	63,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	313,500
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	100,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.24	960,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	96,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63.5	63	63.5	1,614,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.6	615,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	120,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	5,579,000
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.032	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.57	9,500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	1,010,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,150,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.25	12.25	11.5	12.25	859,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	65	65	65	65	100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.74	318,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71	1,430,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	37,940,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1	1	1	1	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.6	1.64	21,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	2,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	18.5	19	18.5	19	159,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	4,538,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,250,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.215	0.19	0.205	13,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	9,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	3,217,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.16	2,230,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,750,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	2,465,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	80,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	143,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,820,090	71,076,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	113,278,610	430,718,745.00
PRO	38,210,000	51,441,300.00
Mining	23,100,000	269,100.00
OIL	226,600,000	694,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	403,008,700	554,200,695.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	425.84	DOWN 2.72
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,748.60	DOWN 2.22
PRO	538.41	UP 3.21
Mining	1,142.57	DOWN 12.34
OIL	1.28	UP 0.03
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	733.26	UP 2.97
Composite	1,221.11	DOWN 1.69

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED independent directors of First e-Bank Corp. were Melito Salazar and Enrique Esteban.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22 with record date on July 23.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. tentatively set its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 11.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 30 to Aug. 27 with record date on July 14.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Philex Mining Corp. were Henry Brimo, Gerard Brimo, Bernardino Abes, Corazon de la Paz, Albert Awad, John Gokongwei Jr., Antonio Go, Manuel Zamora Jr. and Barbara Anne Migallos.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. were Alfonso Yuchengco, Rizalino Navarro, Cesar Virata, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Susanne Santos, Masaharu Oshima, Yasuhiro Matsumoto, Teodoro Regala, Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Teodoro Peña and Armando Medina.

* * *

IPEOPLE Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.05 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 11 and will be paid on Aug. 6.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 22, 3 p.m. at the CEU boardroom, San Miguel, Manila. Stockholders of record as of June 27 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 1, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.868206	1.000000	53.522000
Japan	Yen	0.007253	0.008354	0.447100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437402	1.655600	88.611000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111340	0.128241	6.863700
Switzerland	Franc	0.642925	0.740521	39.634200
Canada	Dollar	0.644022	0.741785	39.701800
Singapore	Dollar	0.493243	0.568117	30.406800
Australia	Dollar	0.582572	0.671006	35.913600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.302995	2.652590	141.971900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231522	0.266667	14.272600
Brunei	Dollar	0.491846	0.566508	30.320600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020642	0.023776	1.272500
UAE	Dirham	0.236388	0.272272	14.572500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.151800	61.646600
Argentina	Peso	0.309521	0.356506	19.080900
Brazil	Real	0.303462	0.349528	18.707400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134601	0.155034	8.297700
India	Rupee	0.018752	0.021598	1.156000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228506	0.263193	14.086600
Mexico	New Peso	0.083066	0.095675	5.120700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509451	0.586786	31.406000
Norway	Kroner	0.120524	0.138819	7.429900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015047	0.017331	0.927600
South Africa	Rand	0.116045	0.133661	7.153800
Korea	Won	0.000728	0.000838	0.044900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108800	0.125316	6.707200
Syria	Pound	0.020672	0.023810	1.274400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025158	0.028977	1.550900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000544	0.000627	0.033600

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The buzz on BusinessWorld

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BUSINESSMAN Enrique Zobel is free to dispose of his 30-percent shareholding in BusinessWorld to whichever party he wishes to.

The majority shareholders of BusinessWorld, a BusinessWorld official said yesterday, have declined to exercise their right of first refusal over the EZ block, which has been rumored to be on the market for some time now.

The majority shareholding of BusinessWorld is structured this way: 67 percent is owned by the employees' retirement fund, with RCBC as trustee; the remaining 3 percent is distributed among BusinessWorld employees.

The voting trust representing the 67 percent is, in turn, being solely exercised by editor-publisher Leticia Locsin, widow of BusinessWorld founder Raul Locsin. Valid for five years, the voting trust may be revoked or renewed by the daily's eight-member management committee chaired by Mrs. Locsin herself.

RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata sits on the mancom as an independent director, not as chair as was reported here on Monday. EZ's son, Iñigo, apparently is the sole representative of the 30-percent bloc.

Echoing an earlier announcement made by the paper, the BusinessWorld official, who asked not to be identified by name, said Mrs. Locsin and the retirement fund have no intention of disposing of their majority shareholding to outside parties.

According to the grapevine, the EZ bloc is asking for P35 million for the 30-percent stake, an amount, the BusinessWorld official said, that was probably based on the audited value of the company.

If that figure is correct, then the entire BusinessWorld, including its press and Balete Drive building, is valued at P120 million.

Based on the financial reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, BusinessWorld reported P209.6 million in gross revenues in 2001, and a net profit of P3.4 million (or about 1.6 percent return), a slide from the previous year's P258.2 million in revenues and P13.8-million net (or about 5.3 percent return). The 2002 figures are unavailable.

Message of thanks

YOU won't read this stuff in the BusinessWorld.

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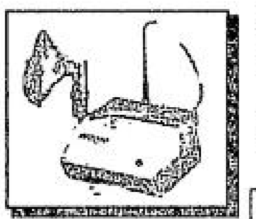

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P100,001 - P500,000	4.750%	5.000%	5.250%
P500,001 - P5,000,000	6.500%	6.750%	7.000%
P5,000,001 and above	6.750%	7.000%	7.250%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
$ 500,001 and above	2.875%	2.875%	2.875%

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ADB	Gross Rate p.a.
P50,000 - P499,999.99	5.50%
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Introducing the BMW 325i M Sport with SMG

The BMW 325i M Sport's Sequential Manual Gearbox (SMG) uses F1 technology to give you the thrill of driving a high-performance sports car, without foregoing the comfort of a luxury sedan. At a push of either of the two small paddles on the steering wheel, you change gears effortlessly, even at high speed driving. And with a 6-cylinder engine under the bonnet, you will have all the power you need for the ultimate in driving pleasure. The M Sport suspension, 18" alloy wheels and sports seats complete the Formula 1 car experience.

Only 24 units of the BMW 325i M Sport will be available in 2003. So visit your authorised BMW dealer today if you want to own this very rare vehicle.

Picture may vary from actual unit.

The buzz on BusinessWorld

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BUSINESSMAN Enrique Zobel is free to dispose of his 30-percent shareholding in BusinessWorld to whichever party he wishes to.

The majority shareholders of BusinessWorld, a BusinessWorld official said yesterday, have declined to exercise their right of first refusal over the EZ block, which has been rumored to be on the market for some time now.

The majority shareholding of BusinessWorld is structured this way: 67 percent is owned by the employees' retirement fund, with RCBC as trustee; the remaining 3 percent is distributed among BusinessWorld employees.

The voting trust representing the 67 percent is, in turn, being solely exercised by editor-publisher Leticia Locsin, widow of BusinessWorld founder Raul Locsin. Valid for five years, the voting trust may be revoked or renewed by the daily's eight-member management committee chaired by Mrs. Locsin herself.

RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata sits on the mancom as an independent director, not as chair as was reported here on Monday. EZ's son, Iñigo, apparently is the sole representative of the 30-percent bloc.

Echoing an earlier announcement made by the paper, the BusinessWorld official, who asked not to be identified by name, said Mrs. Locsin and the retirement fund have no intention of disposing of their majority shareholding to outside parties.

According to the grapevine, the EZ bloc is asking for P35 million for the 30-percent stake, an amount, the BusinessWorld official said, that was probably based on the audited value of the company.

If that figure is correct, then the entire BusinessWorld, including its press and Balete Drive building, is valued at P120 million.

Based on the financial reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, BusinessWorld reported P209.6 million in gross revenues in 2001, and a net profit of P3.4 million (or about 1.6 percent return), a slide from the previous year's P258.2 million in revenues and P13.8-million net (or about 5.3 percent return). The 2002 figures are unavailable.

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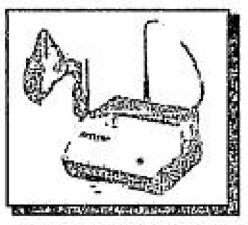

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Picture may vary from actual unit.

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

‘How do I prepare for the practice?’

By Atty. Felipe L. Gozon
Chair and CEO
GMA Network Inc.

ASK YOUR CEO

I'M a fresh graduate of AB Political Science here in Cebu City. I would like to take a law course later on. For the meantime, I just want to work. But I don't know where I should apply because most of the jobs available are for business related courses. Where do most Political Science graduates work? I'm having a hard time applying because most of my competitors are from commerce courses. Please give me some tips on how to make my resume attractive to my employers considering that I'm just an ordinary graduate without honors, though I'm affiliated with some organizations. I have applied for some positions like retail sales officer for a telecommunications company and customer service assistant in other companies. I have a problem in making my resumé and application letter unique. Please help me. I'm looking forward to a positive reply on this mail. Thank you and more power.

Mr. E.

Let's start with your resume. Considering that you were an average student, in your resumé you should focus on the non-academic qualifications or traits that most employers look for in an employee, namely honesty, diligence, responsibility, eagerness to learn, ability to adjust and to get along well with others, seriousness of purpose and desire to do well. You can cite in your resumé or application letter the desirable traits that you have. You can also state your school activities that are relevant to these.

Exposure to law practice

Although high grades in school are among the bases used in the initial evaluation of an application for employment, high grades are not necessary or important in many jobs or positions.

Because you are planning to be a lawyer someday, you should apply first with the law firms or offices there in Cebu City as a clerk or paralegal. You will learn a lot about law and the practice of law in a law office. You will be exposed to all kinds of legal forms and pleadings, a working knowledge of which you will need when you study law and thereafter. You will gain practical and theoretical insights about law and the practice other law students, who did not have the same experience or exposure, do not have. In other words, you will have a distinct advantage over other law students not similarly situated.

There may be enough law firms or offices in Cebu City where you can apply. However, the compensation and benefits in a law firm may be less than what you can get from commercial establishments. But from the tenor of your letter, your foremost concern is to get a job. And because you are planning to study law later, the non-monetary benefits that you will get from being employed in a law office could more than compensate for the lower salary.

Long-term benefits

In my own case, after finishing my master's degree in law in the US, I applied with the then two biggest law firms in the country. While one law firm offered to give me a higher salary and a room for myself, I joined the other law firm that gave me substantially less salary with no room of my own. This was because the law firm that offered a higher salary was going to assign me to a specific area of law practice and the other law firm was not going to do so. (In the New York law firm where I worked for two months before I studied for my master's degree, lawyers are assigned to specific areas of law where their practice would be more confined more or less, that is, if they make the grade, sometimes until they retire.) As I was just starting my career, I thought that if I were to be confined to a specific area of law practice (which I may not find to be where I will be good at or enjoy doing), that will limit my growth or the opportunities that may be open to me. To this day, I have not regretted that decision.

Depending on the circumstances, I have found that when one is starting on his career, it is advisable to decide based on long term rather than on short-term considerations.

CEO mentor Gozon

If there are corporations or branches of corporations in Cebu City that have legal offices, they will be your next best alternative.

(Do you want to learn from Atty. Gozon's experiences? He, together with other topnotch CEOs, will give you career advice through this column. Send your requests for career advice to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

Study says female workers lift company profitability

TOKYO (AP)—The more women, the bigger the profit. That's what the Japanese government is telling corporate Japan in a study released Friday showing the higher a company's ratio of female employees, the greater its profitability.

The study also concludes a company will be deeper in the black if the women on its payroll are given the same opportunities for career advancement as men.

Not just for serving tea

The news is welcome relief for many Japanese working women, who are still often expected to serve tea to their male colleagues and quit their jobs when they get married.

The study commissioned by the economy ministry analyzed the workforces and profit margins of some 26,000 Japanese companies, big and small, in industries from retail to finance.

The 55-page report showed that at firms where women made up less than 10 percent of the work force, the average return on assets ratio was only 1.62 percent. But at firms where women comprised between 40 percent to 50 percent of the work force, the return on assets rose to 3.43 percent.

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The direct correlation disappeared once the female ratio rose above 50 percent, however, indicating a gender balance was important for corporate performance.

Issues

Critical to the bottom line and the satisfaction of women workers, the study emphasized, were quality-of-workplace issues such as whether employees were evaluated on merit and not on gender.

The study is part of a broader government push to improve the treatment of women in society and in the workforce.

As the study points out, Japan will need to tap into its underused reserve of often highly skilled and educated female labor in order to support a population that is aging rapidly. In 50 years, those over 65 are expected to account for more than a third of Japan's population.

"Not only in terms of securing a source of labor, but for the quality of our country's economy," the report said, "it is important that women gain the opportunity to use their skills and contribute."

Use competitive intelligence in job hunting

NEW YORK (Reuters)—Job hunters with fingers sore from phoning contacts and heartburn from fruitless networking breakfasts are often relieved when career counselor Robert Pannone suggests a more relaxing strategy for finding work.

His advice: Spend some time in the local library.

Databases

"Networking is great for extroverts but not everybody is like that," Pannone, who has counseled hundreds of job seekers, said in an interview. "Myself, I'd rather spend a few hours in a library than go to a networking meeting, and I have a lot of clients who feel the same way."

Every job hunter should "nurture a working relationship with your reference librarian," says Pannone in his book "Using Competitive Intelligence to Advance Your Career (America House Book Publishers). "He or she will then show you which databases are available and most suitable for your use."

Cold calls to contacts and firing off cover letters and resumés may have worked when unemployment was low and headhunters were on the prowl. But "with the number of people out of work nowadays, there's less tolerance for networking," said Pannone, a career counselor for New York-based ReadyMinds.com. "Employers are tired of answering phones and talking to people who just want them to help them find jobs."

Competitive intelligence

Instead, Pannone suggests that job seekers use the same "competitive intelligence" techniques that companies use to scout customers or rivals.

Pannone shows in his book how clients used journals, reference books and data bases to profile target companies and learn about their problems and needs. It then shows how they wrote proposals for employment, and contains some of the letters that produced job offers.

Using competitive intelligence has enabled clients to get jobs that did not even exist, said Pannone, who lives in Stratford, Connecticut.

"You're not looking for job openings," he explained, "but for opportunities for growth at a company, or problems. Ideally, you want to find an opportunity or a problem before it gets to the stage where it's so evident that there's an opening and they're actively looking for someone."

The book details how a medical doctor convinced a consulting company he could help generate more revenue using the Internet, and how a woman who had worked in computers and academia sold a cable television provider on her ability to develop services combining education and entertainment.

Pannone said competitive intelligence has helped clients—from lawyers and accountants to professionals in various fields.

Sophisticated process

Competitive intelligence, Pannone said, has always been marketed by career counselors as "kind of an elite, sophisticated process." But it boils down to being curious about your chosen field and looking for ways to be helpful.

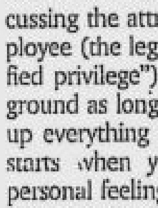
Pannone also encourages workers to use competitive intelligence to win promotions with their current employers.

The book suggests six steps to formulate a proposal that "offers your employer something he or she is not currently getting" with specific data that shows how the job seeker would provide a needed product or service.

What do you say when asked about an ex-employee?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



DEAR WW: I just got a call from a company that is considering hiring an employee that I recently fired. I'm still annoyed at the jerk and I gave their personnel guy an earful. Now everybody is telling me that I could get sued for what I said.

He Got Fired And
I'm Nervous

A while back I read an interview with a Beirut warlord who was preparing for a visit to the UN in New York, in an attempt to broker a peace settlement in Lebanon. Considering his country was involved in one of the bloodiest civil wars in history, I was surprised at his biggest concern about the trip. "The subway. That really scares me."

Having survived your own personal "Beirut" by firing this employee, you probably thought that the war was over. Unfortunately, even after the gunfire has ceased, you can still step on a land mine worse than any subway ride—an employee lawsuit for defamation.

Legal implications

I turned to the Employers Legal Handbook (Nolo Press, 1997) to discover that employees have successfully sued for slander (if their reputation was damaged by something you said) or libel (damaged by something your wrote).

The courts recognize that you and the prospective employer do have a "common interest" in discussing the attributes of an employee (the legal term is "qualified privilege"). You're on solid ground as long as you can back up everything you say. Trouble starts when you unload your personal feelings about the person or their performance. At this point that cracking sound you hear could be the floor giving out from under you.

A. RODRIGUEZ

Guide

Use the questions below, adapted from the Employers Legal Handbook to help you next time you get a call to check the references of someone you fired:

Can you stick to the facts? "Joe had an accident"—is sticking to the facts. Adding, "he may have had too much to drink" (without breathalyzer test results)—could fund the college education of the employee's lawyer's child.

Did you try to harm his or her reputation? "We can document serious problems with her work"—is an acceptable critique of their performance. "She robbed us blind"—could send the lawyer's child to, heaven forbid, law school.

What message did you send to your other employees about the firing? You can also get in trouble for damaging the reputation of a former employee with your own employees. Therefore, it's always wise to keep the discussion about the dearly departed to a minimum.

Kansas is one state that realized that it's silly to have former employers refusing to comment on former employees for fear of being sued. So they've changed the law to raise the bar for what could be considered slander about a former employee (the employee has to prove that you acted in bad faith).

If the warlord only knew what fun it was to do battle in "civilized" society.

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

How to survive PTA pressure

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

LOOKS like we stirred a hornet's nest with the column on the working mom's battle with the bulge—the school PTA. Comrades have come out of the rugged terrain of grade schools to talk about their struggles. Lone avengers going at the guilt wall on their own steam cheered the chance to speak up for working moms. And reclusive moms, who had taken to hiding out in their office cubicles when PTA season came, feverishly tapped into their computers to email us their thoughts.

Best tips

The following are the best tips sent in by a fellow working mom, Connie Balmaceda, mother of five, on how she conveniently escapes from PTA elections and how she participates in school without getting the stares from the PTA loyalists:

1. Ask your daughter for the agenda. You can then estimate at about what time elections would be held. Come conveniently just after the elections or if elections are to be held at the latter part of the meeting, come really early and conveniently excuse yourself at the right time on the pretext of having another meeting.

2. If nominated to be an officer, withdraw but:

a. Commit that you will support the officers' activities. Come one activity, be very cooperative and gung-ho saying that while your load is light, you can be depended on for that activity. You are in effect saying that the next time around, you will not be available as workload will be heavy.

b. Offer to do entering of data into the computer and reproduction of class directory. Tell them that this will be your contribution for the class. They will remember this for the whole school year. Fulltime moms think that doing the directory is very difficult, so *talagang mabibilib sila sa iyo!*

3. Should officers call you to remind you about PTAs or class activities, say immediately that you will be attending. They will not call you again to follow up (that's at least one less phone call from a parent who will try to convince you to go or follow up to confirm your attendance).

Honesty

But in all these, be honest with your children on why you behave this way and why you cannot always make it. They will understand and even help you out of PTAs. Sometimes, they will do the excusing for you.

We often tell our children that we wish to be hands-on parents, especially in school activities. And we have shown them how hard we try to make it every time. *Kaya*, at times when we could not make it or just do not like the topic to be discussed in meetings, they understand.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor in chief of Metro Working Mom published by ABS-CBN Publishing. Email feedback at An_Alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com*)*

SARS crisis officially over, HK awaits tourists' return

HONG KONG—The SARS crisis is officially over. The surgical masks have almost vanished. But so have the tourists and the rickshaw pullers who normally make a living posing for snapshots or giving visitors short rides near the waterfront.

One red, empty rickshaw had taped to it a handwritten notice offering the vehicle for sale and listing a phone number. And 63-year-old rickshaw puller Chan Mei-choi—one of five men who man rickshaws near the Star Ferry—was missing, spending his time in the library reading feng shui books and puzzling over why Hong Kong is doing so badly.

"Our customers are usually Americans and Europeans, but we see none these days," Chan said. "I think the situation would be like this for at least another two months."

According to the World Health Organization, this city of 6.8 million people is now safe to visit. Last week, the WHO took Hong Kong off its list of SARS-infected areas, a month after lifting an advisory against travel to the territory. The Chinese mainland got the all-clear the following day, last Tuesday, when Beijing was taken off the list.

At the peak of the outbreak, many Hong Kongers wore surgical masks, hoping to minimize their risk of catching SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which has killed 296 of the 1,755 people sickened here by the disease. Restaurants and shops stood empty, conferences and concerts were canceled, and schools suspended classes.

Most people have given up the masks by now, and life is basically back to normal. But the disease is still plaguing Hong Kong's tourism industry.

It's hard gauging the exact state of tourism here because official statistics include visitors who spend only a few hours in town before traveling on.

The number of visitors plunged 68 percent to 427,000 in May from 1.33 million in the same month last year, according to Hong Kong's Tourism Board—the lowest monthly figure since February 1991, at the height of the Gulf War.

Flights were canceled by the hundreds, unemployment surged to a record 8.3 percent, and thousands of workers were forced to take unpaid leave.

Airlines are gradually restoring their schedules and there are signs of recovery, with 320,000 visitors in the first half of June, though at least 40 percent spent less than a day here. In June 2002, Hong Kong had 1.17 million visitors.

The Tourism Board predicts that it could take at least a year for a full recovery.

Though mainland Chinese tourists and business travelers are returning, regaining the confidence of other leisure visitors will likely take time.

The situation on the Chinese mainland is crucial: about one-third of Hong Kong's visitors are on their way to or from other cities in China. SARS first surfaced in southern China's Guangdong province, and it's unclear when foreign tourists will venture back to the mainland.

"We believe we may not get some of the long-haul traffic back until later in the year or even next year," said Tourism Board spokesperson Simon Clennell. "These are the people who would make one big trip a year."

In good times, the tourist trade employs 71,000 people and generates 6 percent of Hong Kong's economic activity. Another 295,000 people work in tourism-related sectors, such as restaurants. *AP*

Disney opponent sees new Pooh case lawyer in next week

LOS ANGELES—The family suing Walt Disney Co. in a decade-old case over marketing rights to children's book character Winnie the Pooh has parted ways with its lead lawyer and expects to hire a new legal team within a week, a family spokesperson said on Monday.

Lawyer Bert Fields asked to be dismissed from the case about three weeks ago, and the California Superior Court judge hearing the lawsuit had been due to rule on Wednesday on Fields' request.

Disney has said it could be liable for hundreds of millions of dollars if it loses the case.

Late on Friday Stephen Slesinger Inc., the family corporation that employed Fields' team, agreed to substitute a temporary lawyer, David Wheeler, according to Fields and Slesinger spokesperson Lonnie Soury.

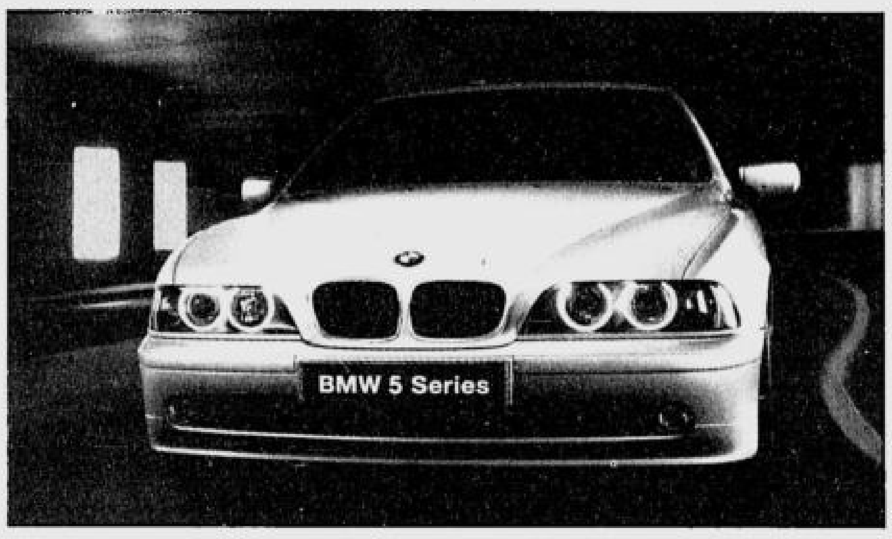
Fields has declined to discuss his reasons for leaving the case.

Soury said a new team would be signed on "hopefully within a week." The Slesingers are negotiating with a separate firm, Greene, Broillet, Panish & Wheeler, for trial lawyer Browne Greene to take the case, one source familiar with the matter said.

The family of the literary agent who purchased US marketing rights to the honey-loving bear from British author A.A. Milne in 1930 claims Disney has shortchanged it on royalties.

Billions of dollars in merchandise, video cassettes and movies based on Pooh and other characters from Pooh stories are sold each year.

Disney's lawyer Daniel Petrocelli and Wheeler are due to meet with Superior Court Judge Ernest Hiroshige on Wednesday to discuss the status of the case, a court clerk said. *Reuters*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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Driving through the Jolly lane

HUNGRY and late for your appointment? You probably hope you could be in two places at the same time to satiate your hunger as well as meet your schedule. There are also instances when you and your barkada have that spur of the moment decision to have an outing in Tagaytay. Or, your family is off for a long ride and bunso wants to pack his favorite langhap-sarap meal for lunch. Living in these times when messages can be sent by just pushing a button, there is also a faster way of getting the food you crave for without having to spend your time parking your car and looking for an available seat.

Drive-through is the perfect solution during those hectic moments when you need to beat the traffic to get to your meeting on the dot. It is very convenient during long journeys with families and friends where every minute counts. Recognizing the need of motorists for quick service without having to go through the usual process, Jollibee has started putting up drive-through stores in the late '80s.

To date, Jollibee already has 58 drive-through stores nationwide, 19 in Metro Manila and 39 in provincial areas. For Jollibee patrons, the drive-through service offers easy access to people like them who are always on the go.

"There are times when I crave for Chickenjoy or Burgersteak. I could imagine the aroma of Chickenjoy and the taste of the crispy chicken skin while in traffic. I would think of stopping over at Jollibee but a previous engagement would keep me from doing so. It's so hard when you are on the road. If I were at home or in the office, I could just have it delivered, right? Well, it's a good thing, there's a Jollibee drive-through. Sometimes, while I'm stuck in traffic, I eat my favorite meal in my car and it lessens the stress," 22-year-old yuppie Marlo Valmores revealed.

There are days when other factors, like the weather, do not seem to cooperate. A drive-through at a Jollibee store is always a welcome option. The crew's sunshiny smile and the hot langhap-sarap food are enough to make one forget about the wet weather.

"There was this one time when it was raining hard. It was difficult for me to get down from my car to have lunch because I didn't want to get myself drenched. Good thing there was a Jollibee drive-through, I was able to buy my food-hassle free!" Valmores continued.

For mother and child Joyce and Che-che, who live two hours away from the city, they could never forget the time when they went to Manila and were caught by the rain on their way home. "With a four-year old kid in tow, it was very difficult to traipse around the city. It was already past lunchtime, we were hungry, and we had a trip to catch up. We hailed a taxi, went for a Jollibee drive-through and went straight to the bus station. The filling and meaty Champ and the freshly cooked and mouth-watering Peach Mango Pie warmed our stomachs and satisfied our hunger along the way," Joyce narrated.

Drive-throughs are not only convenient on a traffic jam, a rainy weather, or a long ride. It is also a wonderful way of ensuring langhap-sarap goodness packed for a picnic or brought home for pasalubong. Whenever Joyce and her husband go to Manila without their daughter, they make sure that they drive-through a Jollibee store to take Pies-to-go for Che-che.

And here's more. For every P250 worth of food purchase in a Jollibee drive-through store, you will get a free Steering Jacket from June 15 to July 15. So make that speedy turn to your nearest Jollibee store for a drive-thru of your favorite langhap-sarap Jollibee meal and grab that freebie now. It is only in Jollibee where you will get the fun and convenience you are looking for. That is the "Feeling Jollibee", at 25, it still remains walang kasing sarap.

tion Officer and Guest Speaker
ne 20, . Pasig Room, Metroclub, Makati

OFFICERS OF PHILCOMAN FOUNDATION INDUCTED

Secretary Romulo Neri of the National Economic and Development Authority (center) was the induction officer and guest speaker during the induction ceremonies and general assembly of the Philippine Council of Management Foundation Inc. held recently at Metroclub in Makati City. The inducted officers of Philcoman Foundation Inc. include (from left) House of Representative deputy secretary general Ramon Ricardo Roque, secretaty; San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, chair; Southville International School president Genevieve Ledesma-Tan, president; and Pan Pacific Industrial Sales Inc. president Arturo Dy, vice president. The Philcoman Foundation Inc. is an organization which promotes the development of, and excellence in the practice of management science in the Philippines.

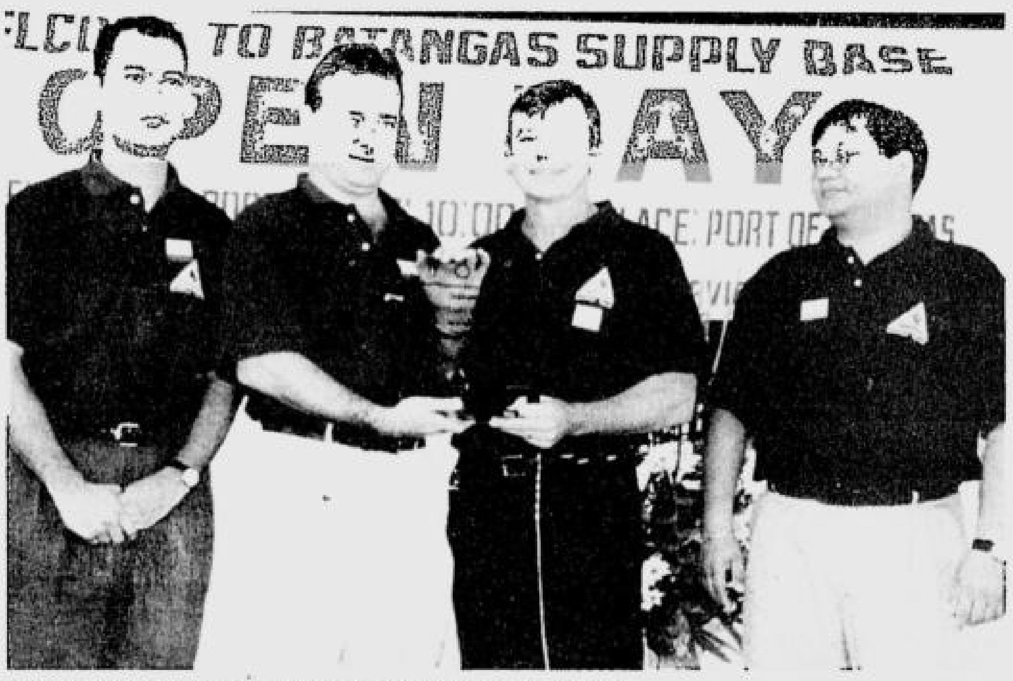
1st RP Beaterio founder for beatification

ON TUESDAY, July 8, the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena will celebrate the formal opening of the process for the Causes for Beatification and Canonization of its foundress, Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo.

Mother Francisca was a pioneering woman of the 17th century in the city of Manila. By the design of Divine Providence, she founded the first Philippine Beaterio, Beaterio de Sta. Catalina in Intramuros, Manila, definitively established on July 26, 1696 with the profession of 7 other Beatas, among them her blood sister Ana. Until 1941 the Beaterio occupied the whole block of Beaterio, Legaspi, Anda and Letran. Documents can testify that it is the first institution administered by religious women to open its doors to native girls for their education in the faith and life.

On Aug. 24, 2000, the National Historical Institute erected a national marker on the original site of the Church of San Juan de Letran where Mother Francisca was buried. Then on Aug. 24, 2002, the Intramuros Administration approved of rededicating a statue in the Plazuela Madre Francisca located along Muralla Street just in front of San Juan de Letran. This rededication was to commemorate the first statue to a Filipina woman unveiled on Aug. 24, 1911 and in preparation for the 3rd centenary of her death in 2011.

Now, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Vatican City, has given its Nihil Obstat to formally open the process for her causes for beatification and canonization. The public is invited to attend the big celebration on Tuesday, July 8 at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City, at 9 a.m.

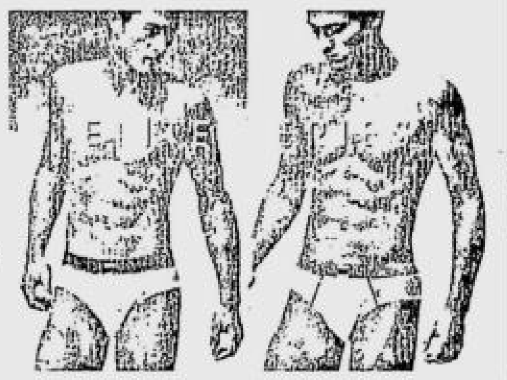


SOS RECEIVES MALAMPAYA SAFETY AWARD

Shell Philippines Exploration BV (SPEX), operator of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project, conferred a Safety Award to Supply Oilfield Services Inc. (SOS) for safely operating without any lost time incident over a three-year period. SPEX health, safety and environment manager Martin Castle and Malampaya Batangas Supply Base manager Raffy Cosme presented the awards to SOS executive vice president Filip Benoit and SOS vice president for operations Senen Lazaro. Following Shell's comm t to safety, this recognition is given to ex- emplifying excellent operation nt- ing safety policies and procedu nel. The Malampaya Deep Water Gas ower project represents the largest and most significant industrial investment in the histor the Philippines.

Product FILES

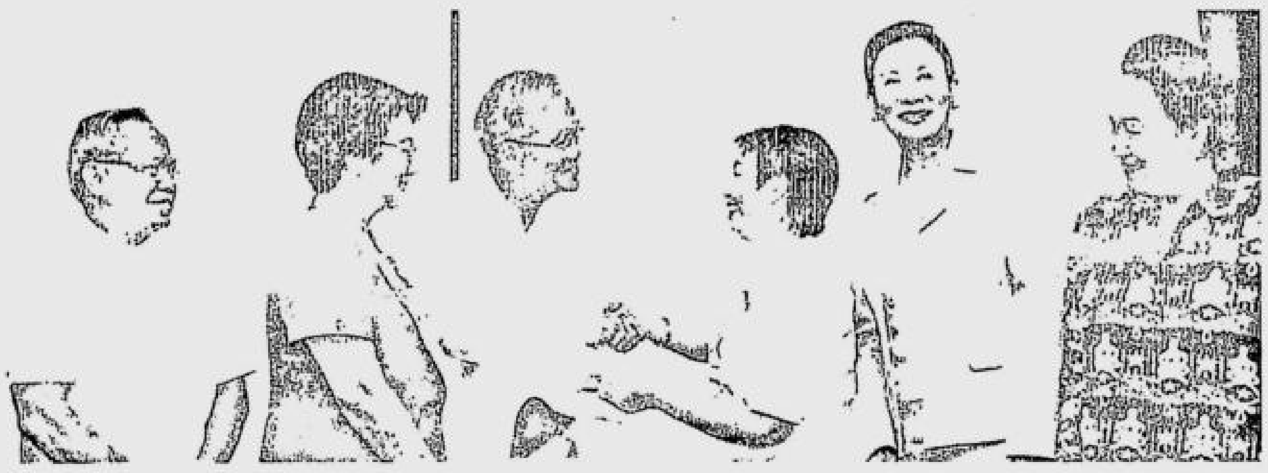
For the discriminating upscale taste



CARTER'S Elite Series is the latest men's underwear collection designed for the discriminating upscale taste. The line is initially comprised of 11 underwear and undershirt varieties ranging from classic to original contemporary. designs. It mixes the different generations of underwear styles with timeless pieces such as the Carter Elite Classic Briefs, and modern designs such as the Elite stretch boxer briefs. Most of the styles in the collection are made from the finest pure cotton fabrics, while some with a blend of the breakthrough elastic fiber Lycra.

Through the Elite Series, Carter aims to further its goals of catering to men of all lifestyle and ages. Designed and produced with particular attention to details, advocates of the successful brand are guaranteed the same unmatchable value with its new line.

The Carter Elite Series is now available at all leading department stores nationwide.



TABANG MINDANAW LINKS UP WITH MOTHERS FOR PEACE

The Mothers for Peace, represented by its chair Irene Santiago, district governor Dandy Gomez of Zonta International, and Cynthia Zagala, national president of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, donate a check to Tabang Mindanaw co-chair Ambassador Howard Q. Dee, with honorary chair former President Corazon C. Aquino and CBCP president Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo for the rehabilitation program for civilian victims of the armed conflicts in Central Mindanao.

Packages for soon-to-be brides

A FIRST-class international business hotel in Makati City is offering attractive wedding packages for would-be brides.

These packages were conceived by City Garden Hotel Makati to spare marrying couples of the trouble of having to make all the necessary arrangements for each and every requirement of their wedding reception.

Each of these packages covers such wedding amenities as floral arrangement, wedding cage with doves, white chair covers, two-tiered cake, decorated cake table, dance floor, sound system, guest book, 50 pieces of wedding souvenirs, wine for toasting, fruit punch, overnight room accommodation, breakfast in bed for two, and complimentary use of the hotel's gym, sauna and heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi.

There's also a 50-percent discount for body treatment for the bride, and body massage for the groom at the hotel's Orient Day Spa, whose facilities include whirlpool and sauna.

All these amenities are included in each of three available wedding packages, which differ only in the choice of the hotel's menu for the banquet reception. This grand reception for a hundred guests and the all rest of the wedding amenities come as low as P54,000.

There are also great choices for the reception's venue-the function rooms at the third floor, the Le Jardin Restaurant at the second floor, or the hotel's garden roofdeck, which has a Roman-inspired swimming pool with bar and grill, and offers a magnificent view of the Makati skyline and other parts of the metropolis.

On the other hand, couples who simply want an accommodation before and after the wedding can have a bridal suite and enjoy such amenities as floral arrangement, bottle of wine, fruit basket, use of dressing gown for the bride, use of fitting form for the bridal gown, complimentary bath foam or bath gel, and choice of facial or foot scrub at the Orient Day Spa, all for only P5,000+.

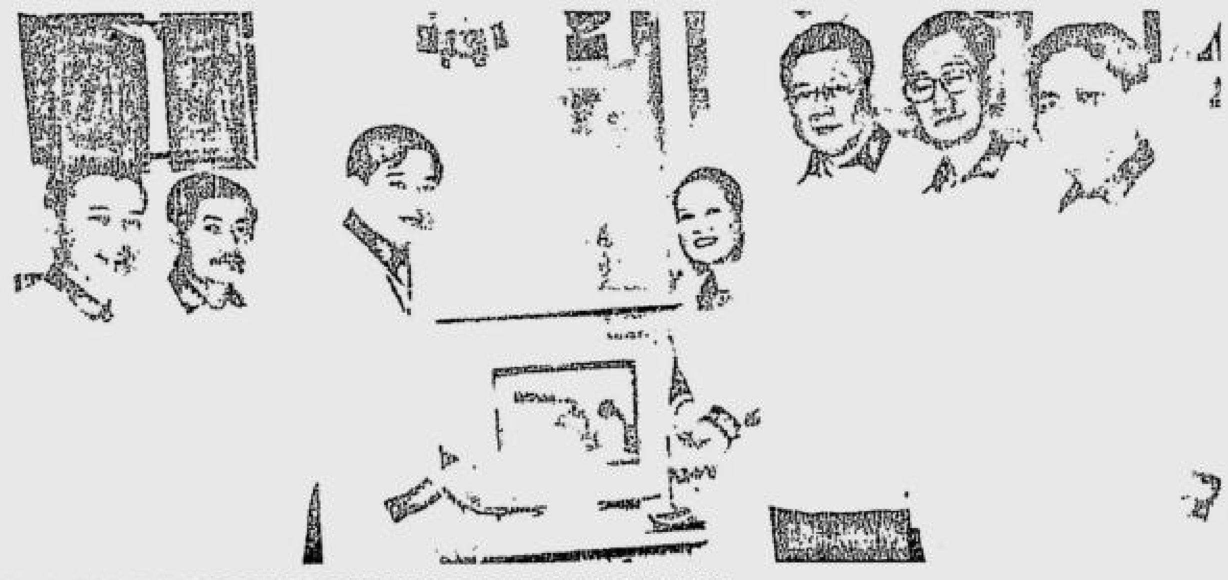
Reservations or inquiries can be made by phone at 899-1111 or domestic toll-free 1-800-101-Garden (427336). The hotel is located at 7870 Makati Avenue, in between Kalayaan and Durban streets.

Known as Metro Manila's first Internet-ready hotel, City Garden Makati has become both a business hotel and an "all-occasion location", serving as the preferred venue, not only for power meetings, business conferences and executive R&R (rest and recreation), but also for weddings, debuts, baptismal and even kiddie parties.

City Garden Makati's growing popularity stems from its unique concept of "affordable luxury," or luxurious amenities at affordable rates, which its clients enjoy for as low as P950++ a day.

This 23-floor business and leisure property has Italian-inspired rooms with world-class and well-furnished facilities such as high-speed Internet and fax access ports, IDD/NDD telephone system, safe deposit box, well-stocked mini-bar, cable TV, and 24-hour room service. There's also an automated wakeup call system, especially for businessmen on the go who need not ring up the front desk for such service. All other items that guests may need can be requested from the housekeeping department, including laundry and dry cleaning services.

Similarly, the hotel's professionally staffed business center is complete with the latest in electronic and telecommunications equipment such as Internet access, fax, and photocopiers, and such services as secretarial assistance, airline ticket reconfirmation, tours and transport booking, and postal and parcel handling, among others.



DONATION TO ANGELES CITY INFORMATION CENTER

The Dean Bonifacio Romero Foundation and Order of the Knights of Rizal Angeles City Chapter donated P100,000 worth of books, 10 computer units, printers and scanner to the Angeles City Information Center and Library. Present during the turnover of donation were (from left) archivist Rey Malig, deputy commander Rizal Policarpio, chapter commander Reghis M. Romero II, head librarian Norma Razon, Angeles City Vice Mayor Ricardo Zalamea, exchequer Ernesto Suntay and Grey Timbol.

PLDT SIGNS MOU WITH YGC

PLDT recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC), which stipulates that PLDT Group will be the primary carrier of YGC's telecom requirements at cost-effective solutions and with quality service. Shown during the signing rites are PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan and House of Investments Inc. (HII) president and chair Helen Y. Dee, seated 2nd and 3rd from left. Witnessing the event are, seated, from left, PLDT corporate business group head Alfredo S Panlilio, HII executive vice president Perry Uy, and ePLDT managing director Ray Espinosa. Standing, from left, are PLDT CLA1 local banks division head Nona Mariano, PLDT corporate solutions executive Arnie Arlando, iPeople Inc. president John Alabastro, YGC coordinating center for procurement Elsie Maglaya, an PLDT business solutions center head Nerisse Ramos.

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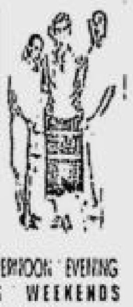

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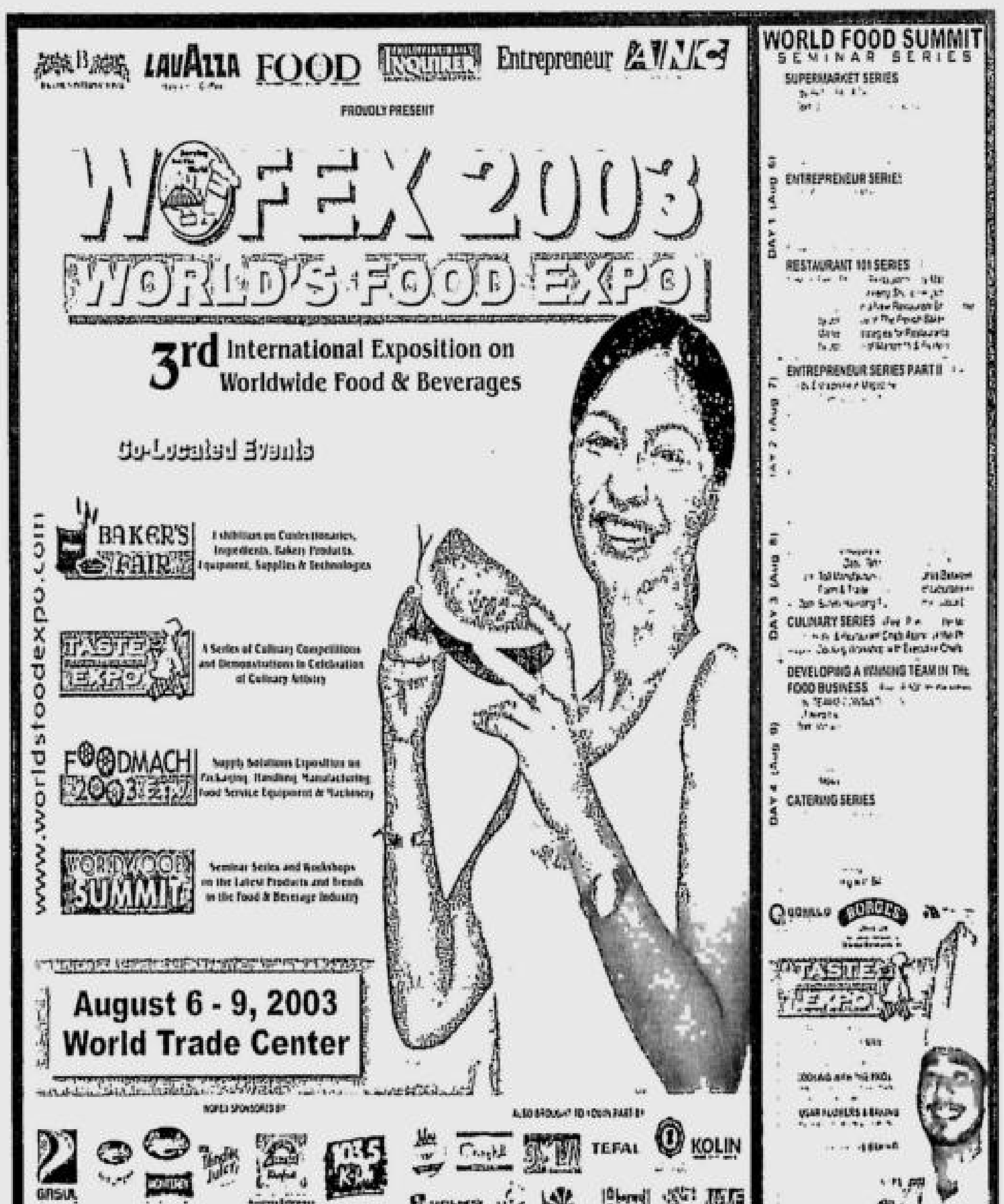

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DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR GENERAL SAFEGUARD MEASURES
INVESTIGATION AGAINST IMPORTATION OF
GRAY PORTLAND CEMENT
(H.S. Code Nos. 2523.2900 & 2523.9000)
FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
(SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 02-2001)**

Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.
(PHILCEMCOR)
Protestant

x---------------------------------x

DECISION

For resolution is the application for safeguards measure filed by the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corporation (PHILCEMCOR) against the importation of gray portland cement of all types classified under HS Codes 2523.2900 and 2523.9000.

When PHILCEMCOR filed its application for general safeguard measure on 22 May 2001, the DTI's preliminary determination was that there was a surge of cement imports into the country in 2000 that caused serious injury on the local cement industry. Further, there were "critical circumstances" affecting the industry, threatening employment and investments. The DTI, therefore, imposed a provisional safeguard measure of P20.60 per 40 kg. bag of cement for 200 days to give the local industry immediate relief from the surge of imports, preserve the jobs at stake, and stabilize the price of cement at reasonable levels, which continued to rise despite the surge of imports during the period investigated, for the sake of consumers.

The provisional safeguards measure proved effective as it gave the industry the necessary breathing spell it needed to recover from the injury it sustained due to the surge of cement imports. The imposition of the provisional safeguards measure restored stability and normalized market conditions. This environment fostered healthy competition among domestic cement manufacturers enabling them to considerably reduce prices from a high of P142.00 per 40 kg. bag in 2001 to a low of P98.00 per 40 kg. bag in 2002 and P100.00 per 40 kg. bag in 2003. This stability in prices benefited consumers as well as the construction industry.

In the meanwhile, during the 200 day period of the imposition of the provisional safeguard measure, the Tariff Commission, in its formal investigation concluded that there was no ground for the imposition of a definitive safeguards measure. The DTI disagreed with the conclusions of the Commission, and requested an opinion from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the DTI Secretary's "scope of options in acting on the Commission's recommendations." The DOJ opined that the DTI is bound by the findings of the Tariff Commission and a negative final determination of the Commission "precludes a review by the Secretary of a negative finding of the Commission." Having no alternative, the DTI though, having determined that it disagrees with the Commission's conclusion, abided by the Commission's findings.

The PHILCEMCOR filed a petition for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus with the Court of Appeals (CA).

Now, that the CA has ruled that ***"x x x the findings of the Tariff Commission do not necessarily constitute a final Decision on the matter of the application of the safeguard measures. Indeed, while such factual findings of the Commission enjoy the presumption of validity, it is still recommendatory and the DTI Secretary exercises the discretion to review and render a final decision, either affirming or reversing the report of the Commission. x x x"***

The CA also ruled that ***"x x x the legislative intent of RA 8800 is to grant the DTI Secretary the power to make a final decision on the recommendation made by the technical body, that is, the Commission.***

Further, a harmonization of the provisions of RA 8800 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations would result in the unavoidable conclusion that the DTI Secretary, having the power to render a final decision on the matter, may issue an independent judgment affirming the Commission's recommendations or even totally departing therefrom and ordering its reversal. x x x"

From the aforementioned ruling, the CA has remanded the case to the DTI Secretary for a final decision. Thus, there is no legal impediment for the Secretary to decide on the application.

While DTI believes that definitive safeguard measures are needed to enable the cement industry to adjust to competition, it also bears in mind the need to closely monitor the industry's progress to ensure the industry shall act responsibly and will not exploit the situation to engage in activities that will limit competition or abuse its market power to the prejudice of consumers. The safeguard measure is intended to assist the local industry to keep up with its commitment to make the necessary adjustments to enable it to eventually become more competitive. Safeguard measures are merely temporary relief provided to distressed industries to give it time to adjust to import competition. Further, such measures can only be considered if the industry is making positive adjustments i.e. taking measures to improve its efficiency and competitiveness. If there are indications to the contrary, DTI is authorized by law to terminate the safeguard measures. DTI, therefore, shall undertake a regular review of the cement industry's performance to determine the need for the continued imposition of safeguard measures.

On the basis of its exhaustive investigation and a thorough review of the records, DTI determines that, pursuant to Section 5 of RA 8800, gray portland cement is being imported into the Philippines in such increased quantities in the years 2000 to 2001 as to be a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry producing an article of like or directly competitive with the imported article.

In the light of such finding, the DTI concludes that the sudden, sharp and significant surge in imports has resulted in declining sales volume, market share, actual production, capacity utilization, profitability and employment of the domestic cement industry. These factors indicate that the domestic cement industry suffered actual serious injury.

In view thereof, the DTI finds that the imposition of definitive safeguard measures is justified as will be explained in this Decision. However, a regular review shall be undertaken for purposes of liberalizing or reducing the intensity of the measures whenever the conditions show any action of the domestic producers contrary to the interests of consumers. The cement industry shall be required to show positive adjustment within allowable period.

BACKGROUND

On 22 May 2001, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) accepted a properly documented safeguard measures application from the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corporation (PHILCEMCOR) against importation of gray portland cement.

On 7 November 2001, DTI issued a Decision imposing a provisional safeguard measure equivalent to P20.60 per 40 kg. bag of gray portland cement for a period not exceeding 200 days from the date of issuance by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) of the Implementing Customs Memorandum Order (CMO). On 10 December 2001, BOC issued CMO No. 38-2001 implementing the said DTI Decision.

On 14 March 2002, DTI received the Tariff Commission's Formal Investigation report on the said application. TC concluded that the elements of serious injury and imminent threat of serious injury has not been established and recommended that no definitive general safeguard measure be imposed on the importation of gray Portland cement.

On 1 April 2002, the DTI Secretary disputed the conclusions of the Tariff Commission and affirmed that the local cement industry was suffering serious injury due to import surge in the period under investigation.

In view of the disagreement between the findings of the DTI and the Tariff Commission, the DTI Secretary requested an opinion from the Department of Justice on the extent of the DTI Secretary's "scope of options in acting on the Commission's recommendations." The Department of Justice opined on 5 April 2001 that the DTI is bound by the findings of the Tariff Commission stating as follows:

> ***"The categorical and prohibitory language of the penultimate paragraph of Section 13 (re: negative final determination of the Commission), to our mind, precludes a review by the Secretary of a negative finding of the Commission."***

In view of the above-quoted opinion of the Secretary of Justice, the DTI Secretary was then constrained to rule that the DTI has no alternative but to abide by the Commission's recommendations, despite its findings and conclusions to the contrary. On the basis of DOJ's opinion, DTI issued a Decision on 5 April 2001 denying PHILCEMCOR'S application for safeguard measures.

On 25 April 2002, the Court of Appeals acting on the petition for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus, filed by PHILCEMCOR, issued a Temporary Restraining Order on the Final Decision of the DTI dismissing the case. On 21 June 2002, CA issued a Writ of Preliminary Injunction preserving the status quo of the case.

On 5 June 2003, the Court of Appeals issued its Decision in the case entitled ***"Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corporation vs. The Honorable Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, et al."*** docketed as C.A. G. R. SP No. 70324. The dispositive portion of the said Decision provides as follows:

"WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing premises, petitioner's prayer to set aside the findings of the Tariff Commission in its assailed Report dated March 13, 2002 is DENIED. On the other hand, the assailed April 5, 2002 Decision of the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry is hereby SET ASIDE. Consequently, the case is REMANDED to the public respondent Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry for a final decision in accordance with RA 8800 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations."

The Court of Appeals also concluded that upon the expiration of the 200-day period provided in RA8800, the imposition of the provisional safeguard measure stops ipso facto.

In the light of this legal development, there is no longer any legal impediment for the DTI Secretary to now rule on the present application for general safeguard measures filed by PHILCEMCOR against the importation of gray Portland cement of all types, including blended Portland cement that contains pozzolan, slag or other additives, whether in bulk or bags, classified under HS Codes 2523.2900 and 2523.9000.

Consequently, in compliance with the Decision issued by the Court of Appeals, the undersigned DTI Secretary hereby promulgates the instant Decision.

Section 5 in relation to Section 4(f) of RA 8800 requires, before a definitive safeguard measure may be applied to a product, a prior determination that ***"a product is being imported into the country in increased quantities, whether absolute or relative to the domestic production, as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry"*** producing an article that is like or directly competitive with the imported article. However, ***"in case of non-agricultural products, the Secretary shall first establish that the application of such safeguard measures will be in the public interest."***

Similarly, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Safeguards provides that a ***"Member may apply a safeguard measure to a product only if that Member has determined....that such product is being imported into its territory in such increased quantities, absolute or relative to domestic production, and under such conditions as to cause or threaten to cause serious injury to the domestic industry that produces like or directly competitive products."***

Thus, the following conditions must exist before a definitive safeguard measure may be adopted:

1. The domestic product must be a like or directly competitive product to the imported product under consideration;
2. The product must be imported into the Philippines in increased quantities whether absolute or relative to the domestic production;
3. There must be serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry that produces like or directly competitive product;
4. There must be a causal relationship between the increased imports of the product under consideration and the serious injury or threat thereof to the affected domestic industry; and
5. The application of such safeguard measures will be in the public interest.

In the case under consideration, these conditions have been meet.

Like or directly competitive product

RA 8800 requires a determination whether ***"the domestic product is like or directly competitive product to the imported product under consideration."*** As defined under Section 4(h) of RA 8800 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), like product refers to ***"a domestic product which is identical, i.e. alike in all respects to the imported product under consideration, or in the absence of such a product, another domestic product which, although not alike in all respects has characteristics closely resembling those of the imported product under consideration."*** Section 4(e) of RA 8800 likewise defines ***"directly competitive product"*** to mean ***"domestically produced substitutable products."***

Thus, a comparison of imported cement with the local cement is necessary to determine whether they are like products. This is important in establishing whether the domestic industry can rightly claim relief or protection under RA8800. In making this comparison, factors such as material composition, chemical composition, physical characteristics, manufacturing methods and technology, uses, tariff classification, production process and other factors were considered.

After a consideration of the foregoing and in accordance with RA 8800, it is found that locally produced gray Portland cement is a "like" product to imported gray Portland cement. Both locally produced and imported gray Portland cement have the same chemical composition, conform to the same chemical and physical requirements, and are used for the same applications. Similarly, locally produced blended Portland cement (pozzolan) have the same chemical composition and application as those of gray Portland cement, and thus, a "like" product to imported gray Portland cement.

Increased Imports

Rule 5.1 of the IRR provides that the Secretary shall apply a general safeguard measure when a product is ***"being imported into the country in increased quantities, whether absolute or relative to the domestic production, as to be a substantial cause of serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry."***

Furthermore, Rule 9.4.b. of the IRR requires a prior determination during the Formal Investigation by the Tariff Commission whether the product (under consideration) ***"is being imported into the Philippines in increased quantities whether absolute or relative to the domestic production."*** Similarly, Rule 7.2.a of the IRR, in the case of preliminary determination provides: ***"The Secretary shall essentially determine the following: the volume of imports, in particular, whether there has been an increase, either in absolute terms or relative to production in the Philippines. The Secretary shall evaluate import data for the last five (5) years preceding the application to substantiate claims of significant increase in import volume. Provided, however, that in some cases, the period may be adjusted to cover a shorter period, if necessary, in order to take into account other considerations that will ensure the appropriateness of the chosen period e.g. seasonality of the product, availability of data or facility in verification of data."***

Thus, following the above-quoted legal mandate, the DTI determined the period of investigation to be the five (5) year period preceding the present application, or the period from 1996-2000, in the evaluation for the purpose of substantiating claims of significant increase in import volume.

A. Increased Imports in Absolute Terms

Imports of Cement: 1996-2001

Year	Imports (MT)	Growth Rate (%)
1996	679,612	-
1997	351,779	(48.24)
1998	180,171	(48.78)
1999	474,430	163.32
2000	1,579,027	232.83
Jan.-Sept. 2000	1,200,043	–
Jan.-Sept. 2001	1,865,315	55.44

Source of basic data: Tariff Commission Formal Investigation Report dated 13 March 2002 using PHILCEMCOR data.

The table above shows that imports of cement amounted to 679,612 metric tons (MT) in 1996. In 1997, this amount declined by 48.24% from the 1996 level with imports falling to 351,779MT. In 1998, imports again declined by 48.78% to 180,171MT. In 1999, however, cement imports considerably increased by 163.32% from the previous year. This surge in imports for 1999 marks a sudden, sharp and significant increase in cement importation into the country. A 232.83% increase was again registered for the year 2000. Imports for this year totaled 1,579,027 MT, 233% higher compared to the 1999 level and 132% higher compared to the 1996 level. For the first three quarters of 2001, imports of cement were already higher than the entire volume imported in 2000 at 1.86 million metric tons. Imports of cement from January to September 2000 amounted to 1.2 million metric tons. A comparison of interim 2001 (January to September) imports against interim 2000 (January to September) imports shows the former exceeding the latter by a substantial 55%.

B. Increased Imports Relative to Domestic Production

Share of Imports to Domestic Production of Cement: 1996-2001

Year	Imports (MT)	Domestic Production	Share of Imports total Production (%)
1996	679,612	12,429,101	5.47
1997	351,779	14,680,757	2.40
1998	180,171	12,887,858	1.40
1999	474,430	12,557,524	3.78
2000	1,579,027	11,959,015	13.20
Jan. – Sept. 2001	1,865,315	8,652,936	1.56

Source of basic data: Tariff Commission Formal Investigation Report dated 13 March 2002 using PHILCEMCOR data.

The table above shows that imports of cement represented approximately 5.47% of total domestic cement production in 1996. This share fell to 2.40% in 1997 and 1.40% in 1998. From 1999 onwards, however, the share of imports relative to domestic production steadily increased. From a 3.78% increase in 1999, this share rose to 13.20% in 2000. For the first three quarters of 2001, said share increased further to a high of 21.56%, that is more than a fifth of domestic production of cement.

On the basis of the foregoing data, the DTI finds that beginning 1999, gray Portland cement was being imported into the Philippines in increased quantities, both in absolute terms and relative to domestic production. This increase in volume of imports is not just any increase, but an increase that is recent, sudden and sharp.

Serious injury or threat of serious injury

Section 4(o) of RA 8800 defined ***"serious injury"*** as ***"a significant impairment in the position of a domestic industry after evaluation by competent authorities of all relevant factors of an objective and quantifiable nature having a bearing on the situation of the industry concerned, in particular, the rate and amount of the increase in imports of the product concerned in absolute or relative terms, the share of the domestic market taken by increase imports, changes in levels of sales, production, productivity, capacity utilization, profit and losses, and employment."*** Rule 12.2 of the IRR sets out the following economic factors among others that must be taken into account in making a determination with respect to serious injury: ***"(1) a significant idling of productive facilities in the domestic industry including the closure of plants or underutilization of production capacity, (2) inability of a significant number of firms to carry out domestic production as a profit; and (3) significant unemployment or underemployment within the domestic industry."***

Two factors emerge as significant in establishing the serious injury suffered by the local cement industry: sales volume and market share. Cement production being highly capital intensive, requiring huge investments in both plant and equipment, it is critical for the viability of the industry that its sales volume and market share are not impaired by imports. In the instant case, the DTI finds that the sales volume and market share of the domestic cement industry has been substantially impaired during the relevant period.

Sales of Cement Industry: 1996-2001

	SALES ('000 MT)	
Year	Domestic	% Change
1996	12,273	–
1997	14,536	18.44
1998	12,714	(12.53)
1999	11,869	(6.65)
2000	10,478	(11.72)
Jan-Sept. 2000	8,205	–
Jan-Sept. 2001	7,115	(13.28)

Source of basic data: Tariff Commission Formal Investigation Report dated 13 March 2002 using PHILCEMCOR data.

There was a serious and marked decline in the industry's sales volumes during the period of the observed import surge. Sales volume further decreased by 11.72% in 2000 to 10,478,000MT. For the first three quarters of 2001 alone, sales volume declined by 13.28%

Apparent Domestic Consumption of Cement and Market Shares: 1996 -2001

Year	Domestic Sales ('000 MT)	Total Imports ('000 MT)	Apparent Domestic Consumption ('000 MT)	Market Share	
				Domestic Industry	Imports
1996	12,273	680	12,953	94.75	5.25
1997	14,536	352	14,888	97.64	2.36
1998	12,714	180	12,894	98.60	1.40
1999	11,869	474	12,343	96.16	3.84
2000	10,478	1,579	12,057	86.90	13.10
Jan.- Sept. 2000	8,205	1,200	9,405	87.24	12.76
Jan. – Sept. 2001	7,115	1,865	8,980	79.23	20.77

Source of basic data: Tariff Commission Formal Investigation Report dated 13 March 2002 using PHILCEMCOR data.

The table above shows that in 1999, when imports more than doubled from the previous year's levels, the domestic industry's share of the market fell to 96.16% from a level of 98.60% in 1998. In 2000, the sharp rise in imports caused the share of the domestic industry to decline further to 86.90%. For the first three quarters of 2001 when imports were already higher than the entire year of 2000, the domestic industry's market share plunged to 79.23%, which is more than a 20% drop in market share from 1998 to 2001.

From the foregoing two (2) factors, serious injury has been established. However, other factors, confirm the fact that serious injury has occurred:

1. From 1999 to 2001, when imports of cement surged, seven (7) dry kilns were idled. The idling of these kilns represents an annual capacity of 3,270,500MT (81.78 million bags of cement) which is equivalent to US$360-540 million of investments.
2. Import surge caused a decline in actual production. The domestic cement industry's production dropped by 2.56% in 1999 and 4.77% in 2000, a total drop of 7.2% from 1998 levels.
3. Import surge caused decreased capacity utilization. Capacity utilization, without the idled kilns, dropped 2.56% in 1999 and 2.23% in 2000, a 4.8% drop from 1998. Also, capacity utilization for the first three quarters of 2001 is 44.48%; a total drop of 3 million MT as of September 2001. With the idled kilns, from a capacity utilization of 51.11% in 1998, capacity utilization dropped to 46.89% in 1999. In 2000, capacity utilization was 44.65% which is a 12.64% decline since 1998 and the figures for 2001 (up to September) show an additional decline of 3.52% from 2000, a cumulative decline of 15.71% since 1998.
4. Employment figures have been steadily declining. In 2000, employment in fact declined by 20.60%.
5. Imports caused the industry to suffer staggering financial losses and lost revenues. During the 1999 and 2000 period, the industry incurred net losses amount to P7,708,552,000.000 and P5,558,671,000.00, respectively.

Thus, the DTI finds that the domestic cement industry suffered a significant impairment in its overall market position, sales volume, production, capacity utilization, profitability and employment.

In the light of such finding, the DTI concludes that, pursuant to RA 8800, the domestic cement industry suffered from serious injury. Indubitably, the foregoing discussion on the elements of serious injury have already shown how the sudden, sharp and significant surge in imports has resulted in declining sales volume, market share, actual production, capacity utilization, profitability and employment of the domestic cement industry. These factors indicate that the domestic cement industry suffered actual serious injury.

Causation

Rule 12.5 of the IRR states that the Secretary shall demonstrate ***"on the basis of objective evidence, the existence of the causal link between the increased imports of the product under consideration and serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry. Any known factors, other than the increased importation of the products under consideration, which at the same time injure the domestic industry, shall also be examined and the injuries cause by these factors must not be attributed to the increased importation of the product under consideration."***

The following figures indubitably indicate that an increase in imports coincides with a decline in the relevant injury factors:

1. In 1999, when imports more than doubled from the previous year's levels, the domestic industry's share of the market fell to 96% from a level of 98.6% in 1998. In 2000, the sharp rise in imports caused the share of the domestic industry to decline further to 86.90%. For the first three quarters of 2001 when imports were already higher than the entire year of 2000, the domestic industry's market share plunged to 79.23%, the lowest for the period under review. This is more than a 20% drop in market share from 1998 to 2001.
2. The industry's pre-surge (1998) sales volume of 12,714,000 million MT decreased by 6.65% in 1999 to 11,869,000MT. Sales volume in 1999 further decreased by 11.72% in 2000 to 10,478,000MT.
3. The industry's production dropped by 2.56% in 1999 and again by 4.77% in 2000, a total drop of 7.2% from 1998 levels.
4. Without including the idled kilns, capacity utilization dropped 2.56% in 1999 and 2.23% in 2000, a 4.8% drop from 1998. Also, capacity utilization for the first three quarters of 2001 is 44.48% a total drop of 3 million MT as of September 2001.
5. With the idled kilns, from a capacity utilization of 51.11% in 1998, capacity utilization of the cement industry dropped to 46.89% in 1999. In 2000, capacity utilization was 44.65% which is a 12.64% decline since 1998 and the figures for 2001 (up to September) show an additional decline of 3.52% from 2000, a cumulative decline of 15.71% since 1998.
6. With cement imports surging, employment figures have been steadily declining. In 2000, employment in fact declined by 20.60% due to import surge, emphasizing the serious threat to job security caused by import surges.
7. Imports caused the industry to suffer staggering financial losses and lost revenues. The surge in imports seriously injured the industry because it resulted in a ton per ton displacement of local cement. Were it not for imported cement grabbing a larger share of the market from local manufacturers, the industry could have attained higher sales revenue. During 1999 and 2000, the industry incurred net losses amounting to P7,708,552,000.00 and P5,558,671,000.00, respectively.

Parenthetically, Section 12.1.c of the IRR mentions price as a factor in the determination of serious injury. In this regard, the DTI finds price undercutting as a relevant issue in its investigation because price undercutting goes into the elements of causation. The DTI finds that it is price undercutting that allowed foreign producers to increase their market share from a negligible 1.48% in 1998 to an alarming 20.77% in 2001.

Faced with these figures, the DTI finds that increased imports of gray Portland cement are both an important cause of the serious injury suffered by the domestic cement industry and a cause that is not less than any other cause. Thus, the DTI, in accordance with RA 8800, finds that increased imports of gray Portland cement are a "substantial cause" of the serious injury suffered by the domestic cement industry

Public Interest

Section 5 of RA 8800 provides that ***"In case of non-agricultural products, the Secretary shall first establish that the application of such safeguard measures will be in the public interest."***

Rule 5.2 of the IRR, likewise, provides that the Secretary, ***"when establishing that the application of a safeguard measure will be in the public interest, shall take into consideration the following factors, among others: i) whether the imposition of the provisional safeguard measure will result in a political or economic crisis; and ii) the extent to which such imposition will cost a shortage of the product under consideration in the domestic market."***

Continued on next page

Accordingly, the DTI determines that the adoption of definitive safeguard measures is in the public interest for the following reasons:

1. It will benefit a significant number of workers and employees in the domestic industry by saving thousands of jobs.
2. It benefits and contributes to the local economy where the industries are physically situated due to the increased revenue and tax collection.
3. It will not impede construction and infrastructure projects because cement constitutes only 4% of the cost of vertical structures and 9% of horizontal structures.
4. It will send positive signals to present and prospective investors by giving them an assurance that the Philippine government can effectively address the problems of the local industry.

Adjustment Plans

Rule 4.1 of the IRR of RA 8800 defines adjustment plan as an *"action plan which a domestic industry is required to submit, that describes a set of quantified goals, specific plans, and timetables that a concerned industry commits to undertake in order to facilitate positive adjustment of the industry to import competition."*

RA 8800 provides that in the course of its investigation, *"the Commission shall issue an appropriate notice to representatives of the concerned domestic industry or other parties to submit an adjustment plan to import competition, within forty five (45) days upon receipt of the notice, except when the Secretary certifies of that the same is urgent, in which case the adjustment plan must be submitted within thirty (30) days. (Section 11) The same section further provides that if "the Commission makes an affirmative determination of injury or threat thereof individual comments regarding actions such persons and entities intend to take to facilitate positive adjustment to import competition shall be submitted to the Commission by any (a) firm in the domestic industry, (b) certified or recognized union or group of workers in the domestic industry, (c) local community, (d) trade association representing the domestic industry, or (e) other person or the group of person."*

The IRR, on the other hand, provides as follows:

"Rule 11. Adjustment Plan.

Rule 11.1. In the course of its investigation, the Commission shall issue appropriate notice to representatives of the concerned, domestic industry or other concerned parties to submit an adjustment plan to import competition, within forty-five (45) calendar days upon receipt of the notice

Rule 11.2. When the Secretary certifies that the investigation is urgent, the adjustment plan must be submitted within thirty (3) calendar days upon receipt of the notice.

Rule 11.3. If the Commission makes an affirmative determination of serious injury or threat thereof, individual commitments regarding actions such persons and entities intend to take to facilitate positive adjustment to import competition shall be submitted to the Commission by any

Rule 11.3.a firm in the domestic industry,

Rule 11.3.b certified or recognized union or group of workers in the domestic industry,

Rule 11.3.c. local community

Rule 11.3.d. trade association representing the domestic industry, and

Rule 11.3.e other person or group of persons who stand to benefit from the imposition of safeguard measures.

Rule 11.4. The adjustment plan shall provide a clear quantification of its proposed goals and detail the efforts that the domestic industry and other concerned parties will make to place the domestic industry in a more competitive position. The goals shall be presented using objectively verifiable indicators that will cover the period for which safeguard measures are sought. Measures covering more than one year shall include specific efforts to be undertaken by the domestic industry for each year of progressive liberalization of the measure. It shall likewise include a time frame to enable the Commission to monitor their attainment over the specific period."

Pursuant to RA 8800 and the IRR, PHILCEMCOR submitted on 7 January 2002 the respective adjustment plans of the following cement companies which joined the application for the imposition of a general safeguard measure:

1. Alsons Cement Corporation
2. Apo Cement Corporation and Solid Cement Corporation
3. Continental Operating Corporation
4. Fortune Cement Corporation, Iligan Cement Corporation, Mindanao Portland Cement Corporation and Republic Cement Corporation
5. FR Cement Corporation and Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corporation
6. Union Cement Corporation

The individual submissions contained the following common efficiency measures that the applicant companies will adopt to facilitate positive adjustment to import competition:

- Power and fuel cost reduction
- Increased management and operational efficiency
- Product research and development
- Improved and aggressive marketing techniques
- Current debt restructuring
- Increased domestic capacity utilization

In conclusion, on the basis of its exhaustive investigation and a thorough review of the records, it has been shown during the period of investigation that gray Portland cement was imported into the Philippines in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry producing a like or directly competitive product with the imported article, and that the application of definitive safeguard measures will be in the public interest.

In its preliminary determination based on the available data, the DTI observed that the average ex-plant price from January – June 2001 of PHILCEMCOR amounted to P124.03/ 40 kg. bag. The local cement importers submitted information on their handling costs (inclusive of selling, general and administrative cost, interest and other charges) at P10.47 per 40 kg. bag. Adding the handling charge of P10.47/ bag plus P5/ bag profit to the average landed cost of imported cement of P79.96 per bag (based on available Import Entry Documents for 2001) will result to a wholesale selling price of P103.43 per kg. bag (inclusive of 10% VAT) for imported cement. Thus, the difference between PHILCEMCOR's ex-plant price of P124.03 per 40 kg. bag and the wholesale selling price of imported cement at P103.43 per 40 kg. bag was computed at P20.60 per 40 kg. bag.

Wherefore, based on the foregoing premises, the elements of serious injury to the domestic industry having been established, it is hereby ordered that a definitive safeguard measure be imposed on the importation of gray portland cement.

Recognizing the concerns raised by various sectors on the impact of the imposition of a definitive safeguard measure on cement relevant to the interest of the general public, the following definitive measures are hereby ordered:

A definitive safeguard duty in the amount of P20.60/ 40 kg. bag shall be imposed for three (3) years on imported gray portland cement from various countries which maybe liberalized when deemed necessary. The first year of the implementation of the definitive safeguard measure shall include the period in which the provisional safeguard duty took effect i.e. 10 December 2001, the date of the issuance of Customs Memorandum Order No. 38-2001.

Pursuant to Rule 13.3.c of the IRR of RA 8800, in case a cash bond has been filed, the same shall be applied to the definitive safeguards duty assessed.

Rule 15.6 of the IRR of RA 8800 requires a review at regular intervals of the decision imposing a general safeguard measure, the duration of which is more than one (1) year. This is for purposes of liberalizing or reducing the intensity of the measures. Consequently, the DTI shall conduct a monthly review of its decision and the cement industry shall be required to show positive adjustment within the allowable period. The general safeguard measure shall be terminated when the cement industry fails to show any improvement, as may be determined by the DTI Secretary.

Pursuant to Section 13 of RA 8800 and Rule 13.1.d of its IRR, *"a general safeguard measure shall not be applied to a product originating from a developing country if its share to total Philippine imports of the said product is less than three percent (3%): Provided, however, that developing countries with less than three percent (3%) share collectively account for not more than nine percent (9%) of the total Philippine imports of the product concerned."* (Attached is a list of developing countries exempted from the definitive safeguard measure on gray portland cement)

All cash bonds that may have been imposed on shipments originating from exempted developing countries which entered in or are withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption starting 10 December 2001, the date of the effectivity of CMO 38-2001, shall be immediately returned to the concerned importers.

All importers of gray portland cement regardless of port of exportation are required to secure a Certificate of Country of Origin (CO) issued by the authorized agency/ office in the source country of manufacture as authenticated by the Philippine Embassy/ Consulate thereat.

Applicant PHILCEMCOR and the cement companies which joined the present application for the imposition of a general safeguard measure are hereby directed to comply with their respective adjustment plans dated 7 January 2002 mentioned above.

The notification and consultation requirements of Article 12 of the WTO Safeguards Agreement and Section 17 of RA 8800 and its IRR shall be complied with.

Imports originating from ASEAN Member states shall be governed by the provisions of Articles 6 and 8 of the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme.

The application of the definitive general safeguard measure shall be monitored and reviewed in accordance with Rules 15 and 16 of RA 8800.

Let the Decision be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and let individual notices be sent to all interested parties including the country members concerned.

SO ORDERED.

25 June 2003

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

List of the Developing Countries Exempted from the Definitive Safeguard Measure on Gray Portland Cement

East & Southern Africa	West Africa	North Africa	South Asia
Angola Botswana Burundi Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopioa Kenya Lesotho Madgascar Malawi Mauritius Mozambique Namibia Reunion Rwanda Seychelles Somalia South Africa Sudan Swaziland Tanzania Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Benin Burkina Faso Cameroon Cape Verde Central African Rep. Chad Congo, Rep. Cote d' Ivoire Equatorial Guinea Gabon Gambia, The Ghana Guinea Guinea, Bissau Liberia Mali Mauritania Niger Negeria Sao Tome & Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Algeria Egypt, Arab Rep. Libya Morocco Tunisia	Afghanistan Bangladesh Bhutan British Indian Ocean Territory East Timor India Maldives Nepal Pakistan Sri Lanka

Europe & Central Asia	Middle East	Americas	East Asia & Pacific
Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia & Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Georgia Greenland Hungary Kazakhstan Kyrgyz Republic Latvia Lithuania Macedonia, FYR Malta Moldova Poland Romania Russian Federation Slovakia Slovenia Tajikistan Turkey Turkmenistan Ukraine	Bahrain Iran, Islamic Rep. Iraq Israel Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Oman Qatar Saudi Arabia Syrian Arab Rep. United Arab Emirates West Bank & Gaza Yemen, Rep.	Anguilla Antigua & Barbuda Argentina Aruba Bahamas Barbados Belize Bermuda Bolivia Brazil British Virgin Is. Cayman Is. Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba Dominica Dominican Rep. Ecuador El Salvador Falkland Is. (Malvinas) French Guiana Grenada Guadaloupe Guatemala Guyana Haiti Honduras Jamaica Martinique Mexico Montserrat Netherland Antilles Nicaragua Norfolk Is Panama Paraguay Peru Puerto Rico St. Helena St. Kitts & Nevis St. Lucia St. Pierre & Miquelon St. Vincent & the Grenadines Suriname Trinidad & Tobago Turks & Caicos Is Uruguay US Virgin Is. Venezuela	American Samoa Brunei Darussalam Cambodia China Christmas Is. Cocos (Keeling) Is. Cook Is. Fiji French Polynesia Guam Johnston Is. Kiribati Korea, Dem. Rep. Korea, Rep. Lao PDR Macau Malaysia Marshall Islands Micronesia, Fed. Sts. Midway Is. Mongolia Myanmar Nauru New Caledonia Niue Northern Marianas Is. Palau Pitcairn Is. Papua New Guinea Samoa Singapore Solomon Islands Thailand Tokelau Tonga Tuvalu Vanuatu Vietnam Wake Is. Wallis & Futuna Is.

(PDI – July 2, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR SURPLUS PIPES, I-BEAM, JUNK HEAVY EQUIPMENT, WASTE OIL AND OTHER UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: July 16, 2003, 2:00 p.m., Solarium Multi-Functional Room, NPC Head Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following junk and unserviceable items:

ITEM DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION		MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	One (1) lot of pipes and i-beams, various length and sizes surplus materials located at Bataan Combined Cycle Power Plant and Bataan Thermal Power Plant, Limay, Bataan (BTPP)	P 1,040,110.00 per lot
2.	One (1) lot junk heavy equipment and AUV consisting of Grove Crane, Terex loader, forklift and AUV Pick-Up located at BTPP	P 137,000.00 per lot
3	One (1) lot of junk aircons 47 units, welding machine 5 units, batteries various type 146 located at BTPP	P 34,070.00 per lot
4.	Waste of fuel 296 drums, high viscocity located at BTPP	P 14,800.00 per lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. FIVE PER CENT (5%) PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (2002, original or certified true copy of BIR).
3. DENR PERMIT TO OPERATE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES AND PERMIT TO OPERATE AIR POLLUTION SOURCE AND CONTROL INSTALLATIONS (for item no. 4 bidders only).

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1 Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call tel. no. 924-5384 Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. July 15, 2003.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC MMD

(PDI - July 2, 3 & 4, 2003)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

PNOC
the Energy company

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Insulators re: O-ilaw Project
under FGJ - 30901

Approved Budget: P2,000,000.00

This invitation is open to all eligible suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Prospective bidders not presently pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Development Corporation shall submit their pre-qualification documents not later than fourteen (14) days before the deadline for the submission of the bids. The bids of prospective (but not yet pre-qualified) bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the above deadline or those who fail to meet the company's pre-qualification requirement on the bid deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Mr. Rafly S. Teylan starting June 25, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per document

For purpose of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on July 11, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/ distributor, if any with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before 2:00 p.m. of July 25, 2003 Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 2, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-BICOL REGION CAMPUS
Tagongtong, Goa, Camarines Sur

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBLITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Science High School-Bicol Region Campus, Tagongtong, Goa, Camarines Sur, invites interested licensed Consulting Firms with specialty in the design of school building to participate in the bidding for the design of Academic building at PSHS-BICOL REGION CAMPUS located at Tagongtong, Goa, Camarines Sur. The approved budget for the Architectural and Engineering Services to be bid is P 650,000.00 and appropriated in the FY General appropriation Act (GAA).

Eligibility Forms shall be available for issuance on June 30 up to July 10, 2003 at the Office of the Director, PSHS-BRC at Tagongtong, Goa, Camarines Sur upon presentation of this advertisement and payment of a non-refundable fee of P300.00. All accomplished Eligibility Forms should be supported by original documents which should be submitted to the above Office on or before 2:00 p.m. of **July 18, 2003.**

All eligible consulting firms shall be invited to submit their technical and financial proposals. The date of the pre-bidding conference shall be on **July 29, 2003** at 10:00 a.m., Office of the Director, PSHS-BRC, Tagongtong, Goa, Camarines Sur. The date of submission, receipts of sealed bids and opening of bids shall be on **August 12, 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

The PSHS-BRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waives any defects thereto, accepts bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

(Sgd.) **ARNEL P. BERMEJO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 2 & 9, 2003)

2nd Kapihang Entrepinoy to inspire the entrepreneurial spirit in all of us

THE 2nd Kapihang Entrepinoy themed ABC's of Entrepreneurship will feature topics on how to set-up a business, managing it and financing a start-up enterprise. The speakers are composed of service-oriented and seasoned entrepreneurs from the Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines (ESP), Agora Awardees for Marketing Education and Entrepreneurship and members of the Philippine Marketing Association.

The 2nd Kapihang Entrepinoy is a joint public service project of the ESP and the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) to individuals who are interested to start a business or planning to go into business and a refresher to those who are already engaged in the business. About 200 entrepreneurs or entrepreneurs to-be have confirmed their attendance to the business forum.

ESP was established in July 1989 and advocates for a conducive business environment for the small entrepreneurs. For membership, please call ESP at (02) 726-6740 or 726-5466 or fax 725-0220. Email: esphil@yahoogroups.com.

The Center for Small Entrepreneurs is an entrepreneurial center whose main thrust is the development, enhancement and promotions of entrepreneurship in the Philippines. CSE is a "service center" of the micro entrepreneurs. It provides training, technical support and credit assistance to this sector.

Registration fee is P500.00. Topic hand-outs and certificates will be distributed. For registration, please call the entrepreneurship service hotlines: (02) 525-6268, 523-9776 mobile 0916-303-7443. Email: csc@pacific.net.ph

AN old woman who was recently stranded in Africa tells her story to First Gentleman Mike T. Arroyo. His recent legal aid clinic held in Malacañang together with other volunteers lawyers was featured in The OFW Hour, June 28, 5:00 p.m. on RPN-9. Hosted by Angelique Lazo and Ambassador Roy Señeres, The OFW Hour is a noble public affairs program dedicated to overseas filipinos worldwide and their families.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC is hereby warned that **WILLIAM ANG**, whose photograph appears above, of 479 Jaboneros Street, Binondo, Manila, is no longer connected with EUROBRASS PRODUCTS, INC., the manufacturer and distributor of various drain products under the brand name JAMAN.

Any transaction entered by **WILLIAM ANG** regarding JAMAN products was not authorized and any drain product passed by him as JAMAN was imitation. So kindly refer to us any transaction entered into by **WILLIAM ANG** or any person acting on his behalf regarding JAMAN products for appropriate action. EUROBRASS PRODUCTS, INC. is willing to give cash reward.

Eurobrass Products, Inc. Tel. 526-7107

(PDI – July 2, 2003)

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) invites interested Filipino Domestic Contractors to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to Bid, if found eligible, for the Project:

Contract Package Name and Location	Scope of Works	IAC Category and Classification	PCAB License Category	Approved Budget	Project Duration
Supply and Installation of Additional Taxiway Guidance Signage & Rehabilitation of Existing Signage with Replacement Spare Parts for DMIA, Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga	Airfield Ground Lighting System and Electrical Works with Civil works	At least Medium B for Navaids Facilities (AGL) Installation and Electrical Works (Specialties)	"A" - General Engineering	Php 20 Million	150 Calendar days

Prospective Contractors should have at least three (3) years of proven experience and excellent track record as prime contractor in Airfield Ground Lighting System (particularly Taxiway Guidance Signage Project) in the Philippines and the value of prospective contractor's largest single contract completed must be equivalent to Php 10 Million or at least equivalent to the 50% of the approved budget for the subject project for bidding. The prospective contractors shall fully comply with all the requirements and criteria stated in the Application for Eligibility/Eligibility Forms and in the Instructions to Applicants for Eligibility and to Bid for the subject Project.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from *02 July 2003 to 08 July 2003* upon submission of a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Thousand (Php 5,000.00) at the *Office of the BAC Secretariat, Bldg. #2127, CSEZ, Clark Field, Pampanga*. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms including documented proofs (One Certificate of Completion and Acceptance of previous project on Taxiway Guidance Signage with similar nature and complexity within the last ten consecutive years from 1993 to 2003) shall be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m. of *July 11, 2003* at the address mentioned above.

All particulars relative to the eligibility of bidders bidding, evaluation and determination of lowest calculated responsive bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184, EO 40 and PD 1594, as amended and their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended.

Eligible Contractor(s) shall be notified in writing and only those who had been found eligible by CDC for the subject project may secure Proposal/Bidding Documents, Specifications and Terms of Reference for the subject Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Ten Thousand (Php 10,000.00) before the pre-bid conference, which will be scheduled thereafter. Submission and opening of bids will be announced later.

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and proposals without offering any reasons, waive any defect or requuired formality, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal/bid is considered the most advantageous to the government, nor it does guarantee that an award shall be made.

Submission and opening of bids shall be announced in the Notice of Eligible Bidders.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

The BAC Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino St., CSEZ, Pampanga

(Sgd.) ROMEO N. DYOCO, JR.
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 2 & 8, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center Bids and Awards Committee (TMC-PBAC) invites all Qualified accredited DOH Suppliers and Bidders to Pre-qualify and to Bid for Drugs/Medicines, Medical Surgical Supplies, Dental, X-ray and laboratory supplies/reagent for Tondo Medical Center.

Only Reputable, Credible and Pre-Qualified Bidders/Supplier are eligible to participate in the bidding.

Interested supplier may obtain the necessary PRE-QUALIFICATION STATEMENT at the Supply Office of Tondo Medical Center c/o Ms. Lolita Oliquiano upon submission of letter of intent. Bring original copies of Firms License for authentication.

For the list of Drugs/Medicine, Medical/Surgical Supplies, Dental, X-ray and Laboratory reagent. Please contact the supply office of Tondo Medical Center, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING		
	DRUGS/MEDICINE	MEDICAL, SURGICAL SUPPLIES, LAB / X-RAY SUPPLIES
Publication	July 1-3, 2003	July 1-3, 2003
Issuance of Pre-qualification forms	July 4-11, 2003	July 4-11, 2003
Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification forms	July 21, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	July 21, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Posting of Pre-Qualified Bidders/Supplier	July 24, 2003	July 24, 2003
Submission of samples for evaluation	July 25; 28-31, 2003	July 25; 28-31, 2003
Evaluation of Samples	Aug. 1; 4-8, 2003	Aug. 1; 4-8, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 11-13, 2003	Aug. 11-13, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 19, 2003 – 9:00-12:00 n.n.	Aug. 21, 2003 – 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Submission of Bids	Aug. 26, 2003 – 8:00-10:00 a.m.	Aug. 28, 2003 – 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	Aug. 26, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.	Aug. 28, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.

Bid Documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders/suppliers upon payment of non-refundable fees of P500.00 pesos at the Cashiers Office – TMC.

Venue for the Bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of bids shall be at the TMC Conference Room.

Tondo Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and awards the contract to any bidders whose offer is considered most advantageous to TMC and or to the government. The TMC-PBAC assume no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders to any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DR. VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, M.D. CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI - July 1, 2 & 3, 2003)

YOUR
FUTURE
HAND
JOB
GMA

OBITUARIES

NIEVES TUASON SONCUYA

March 10, 1917 – July 1, 2003

Mommy peacefully joined Pappy in the loving embrace of our Almighty Father on July 1, 2003 at the age of 86.

Her loving children
Conchita and Vicente Valdellon, Jr.;
Raul and Erlinda Respicio;
Roberto, Jr. and Rosemarie Imperio;
Rolando and Arlene Abad;
Rodolfo and Marichu Abille;
Ramon and Elizabeth Flores;
Rodrigo and Charissa Reyes

Grandchildren and Great grandchildren

Brothers Felix (†) and Marcelina de Leon;
Melchor Jr. and Corazon Lagazo.

Relatives and Friends
request your prayers in Mommy's journey
to everlasting life.

The family wishes to share few lines in one of mommy's poems:

Thoughts Of One About To Die

When the verdict is given
And the end is near,
Everything is done
To make me feel dear.

There's a hurry to give
Every dream I hold dear,
There's a need to fulfill
Every promise made clear.

. . . .

So, go about your way
And leave me be,
Prayers and good wishes
Are all I'll need with me.

Her remains lie in state at
Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be on
Friday, July 4, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., Chapel 1.
Interment will follow after the mass.

Our beloved mother

Encarnacion Ancheta Avena

Passed into the loving hands of our Lord
on July 1, 2003 at the age of 93
and has joined our beloved Father
***Atty. Francisco V. Avena** (†) and brothers **Junior** (†) and **Tinggoy** (†)*

We, **Bubut, Chiqui, Dave. Anil**; **Titos**; **Elilu, Karen**; **Manolo, Amy, Jaymee, Junior**; **Pepito**; **Monchito, Armi, RJ, Raffy, Teddy, Sandy**; and **Vichie** - kindly request you to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at The La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

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VILMA GOOD-SALAZAR

**of Bislig, Surigao del Sur
and Davao City**

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord on
June 30, 2003 at the age of 46.*

She is survived by her husband **Melchor**; son **Jonas**, daughters **Melissa Nicole** and **Audrey**; brothers **Jun** and **Bong**; sisters **Babes**, **Bessie**, **Biebie**, **Grace** and **Nene**.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel in Davao City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 4, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at Davao Memorial Park, Matina, Davao City.

DEATH NOTICES

ENGR. LAERTES R. GELI

Died on June 27, 2003
at the age of 34.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 5, 2003
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park,
Parañaque City.

JESUS F. REYES

Died on June 26, 2003 at the age of 88.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 6, 2003 at
Lingayen Catholic Cemetery at 8:00 a.m.

MAXIMINA ARCA DEL ROSARIO

Died on June 27, 2003

Interment will be on Saturday, July 5, 2003 at the
Holy Rosary Eternal Garden

CONSTANCIA BELTRAN Vda. de PINEDA

Died at the age of 88.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 3, 2003 at
San Miguel Memorial Park, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass
at the St. Michael Parish Church.

Lucila "Luz" Torres-Cruz

*Peacefully joined our Craetor and her husband Adriano
on June 30, 2003 at the age of 77.*

Her children **Mariza** and **Col. Pompeo Limbo** and **Moppet**; grandchildren **Peaches** and **Monik Limbo**, brothers **Gabino** (†), **Simeon** (†), **Ramon** (†) and **Lydia**; sisters **Catalina** (†), **Leonora, Bernarda "Betty" S. Torres**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Francisco** (†) and **Fermina, Salome, Adriana, Nieves, Cipriano** and **Francisca, Susan** and **Vic Alix** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Mary Help of Christians Parish Mortuary, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

She will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday, July 3, 2003.

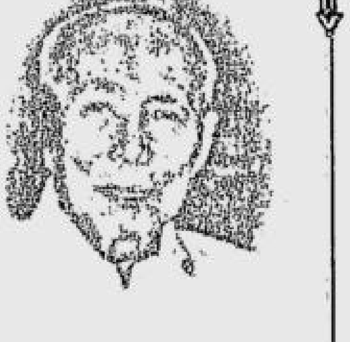
*"Our Lord God has you in His Keeping,
we have you in our hearts."*

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

Psalm 21:15

DR. EMMANUEL G. BUMANGLAG

M.D. F.P.C.P., F.C.C.P.



**of Batac, Ilocos Norte
January 12, 1922 - June 30, 2003**

**Past Governor for Northern Luzon,
Phil. Medical Assoc.
Past President, Ilocos Norte Medical Societ
Past President, Ilocos Norte Tennis Club**

*Peacefully joined our Creator
at the age of 81.*

His bereaved wife **Rosario Baga Bumanglag**; children Emmanuel **Jr. & Dr. Bellaflor Adecer (Andrei, Precious & Annabelle)**; **Doris & Engr. Tonito Arcangel (Aaron Niño & Adrian Anthony)**; **Ruth & Fulton Rigonan (Royal Dietrich, Robert Christian & Ryan King)**; **Dr. Ingrid & Ed Buhay (Iris Stephanie)**; **Justino Albert** (†) **& Christina So**; **Dr. Cheryll & Engr. Alex Artates**; **Dolly Jo & Reynaldo Reyes (Nicole Dierdre)**; and **Dr. Castor & Dr. Miramar de Leon (Cyrus & Cassey)** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, July 6, 2003.

*The outpouring of love and support
from friends and family has been overwhelming
and invaluable. We, the family of the late*

Sabino Roman de Leon, Jr.

Justice of the Supreme Court (Ret.)

*are deeply grateful. Please continue
to remember him in your prayers,
just as we will not forget you in ours.*

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2bU! to be young, to be you! To be you!
LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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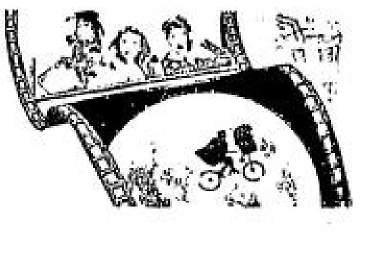
The ties that bind, Part I

This week, we celebrate one of the things that make life worth living—friendship. We have young people sharing with us their views on the relationships they have with their peers, stories on different types of friends, signs that tell you when someone is a friend for keeps, what the silver screen tells us about friendships, and even fashion finds that you can share with your best bud. All these in the first of this two-part special, from one friend to another



Buddies in whatever form

Whether you're childhood chums, exes-turned-pals, multicultural comrades or a big 'barkada,' friends are friends no matter what

Big 'barkada'

By Maureen Tanedo
2bU! Correspondent

THEY say that once you meet the truest of friends, you never want to let go.

Such is the case of this *barkada*. Some of them have been friends all their lives, some since grade school and now they're all headed to different directions and colleges. Still, the distance doesn't threaten them.

Adrienne Lee, Aimee Limketee, Carina Ong, Clarisse Ong, Lia Guerrero, Christine Herrin, Leah Ma, Marybeth Ng, Dianne Pe, Gene Tangsoc, Maureen Tañedo and Kristel Tiu are so unlike one another and yet they find that their differences have been instrumental in their growth as individuals within the bounds of their friendship.

2bU! met with the group of friends who shared their thoughts about the dynamics and challenges of their friendship.

How did you meet?

Back in fifth grade. We came from different small *barkadas*, and through mutual friends, we eventually became close to each other. From there, we formed the big *barkada*.

How long have you been friends?

Some of us since childhood; some since fifth grade. But it doesn't really matter because all of us are close friends, and friendship is never measured by the number of years.

What's the best thing about each other?

The corny jokes, the quirks, the bonding, the lunches in high school, the fact that we still see each other despite going off to different colleges and even different countries to study.

In fact, we have devised the new "*barkada* system." We've made a promise to see each other each month, and one person per month would be assigned to do all the planning. So far it's working well.

What's the best thing about your friendship?

We're all from different backgrounds and have different personalities, but despite these differences, we learn to appreciate each other and our different perspectives on things.

The *barkada* is just like home, and we can be who we are and not be ashamed since we're all so used to each other. Even if we have other friends outside of the *barkada*, there's a special kind of understanding that we share only with each other.

We also love that everyone is so supportive of each other's endeavors. Plus, there's this stereotype that big *barkadas* usually are in it for the fame. We went through that, too, but over time, the ones who stayed have proven to be true.

Do you fight?

Well, in grade school we used to have immature, petty fights, and there would be *kampihan* between groups. But in high school, there really weren't any serious fights, just small tiffs about little issues. We never allow a problem to worsen without confronting it.

What do you do when you're together?

We're not the typical *gimikeras*; in fact, we kid around and call ourselves *manangs*. But then we love eating out and when we do, we're really noisy and the whole restaurant looks at us. We don't mind, though! We also love staying at each other's houses and just bumming around.

Childhood friends

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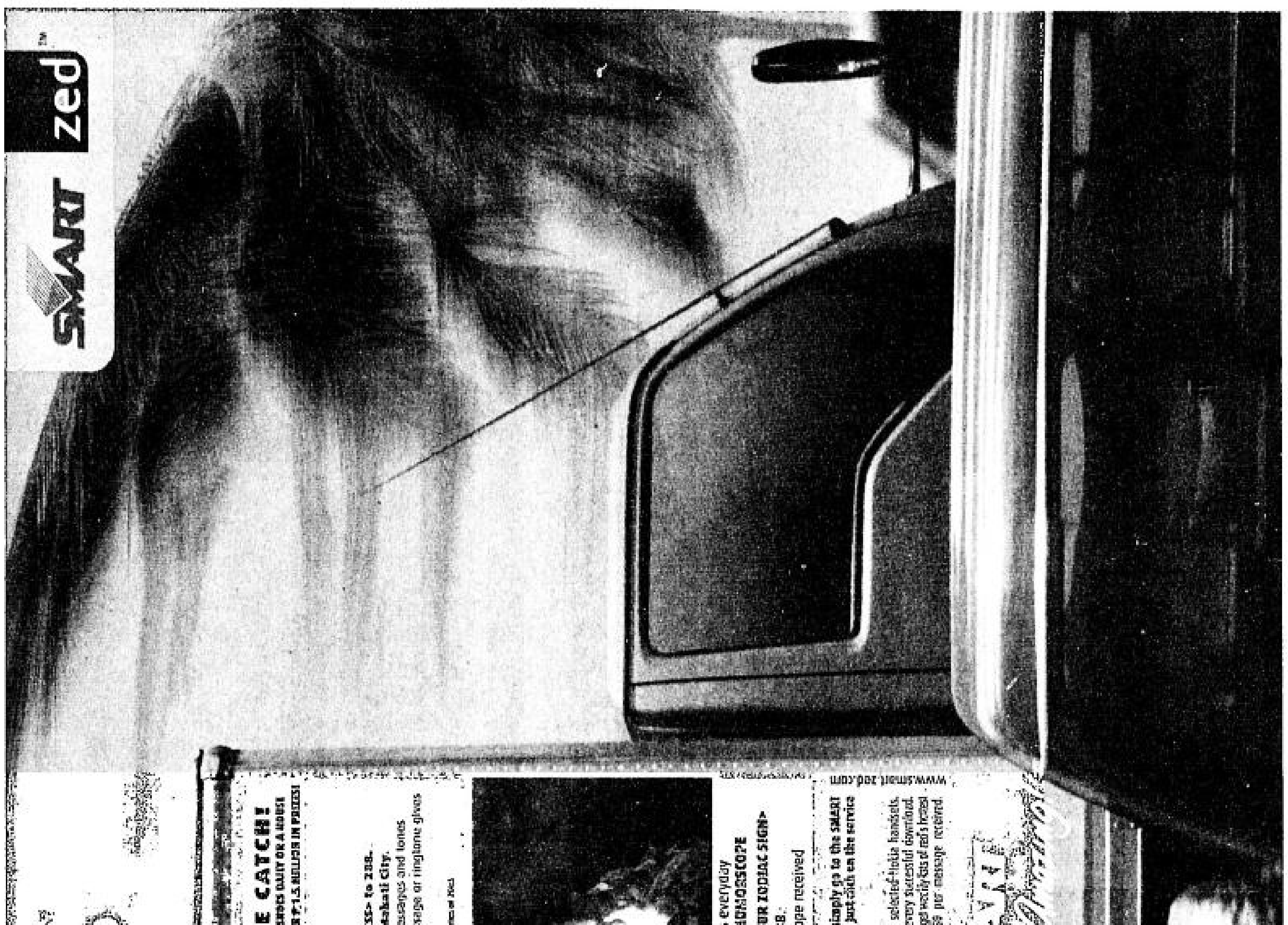

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By Saleema Refran

2bU! Correspondent

FROM ADORABLE dirt-covered little tykes to responsible young men, these two have been friends forever. They've seen it all, from calling each other by their surnames in the school playground to toughing it out with professors in college.

Andre Ablaza of La Salle and Jayvee Dueñas of St. Benilde are both turning 20 this month. Find out how their friendship has thrived through the years.

How did you meet?

Andre (A): *Pare, paano nga ba?*

Jayvee (J): *Ang alam ko*, we were classmates in prep at Lourdes School, QC. *Tapos yun na.*

A: Friends *pa rin naman kami* the last time I checked. (Laughs) Funny *nga kasi* we used to call each other by surnames pa.

J: *Hoy* Dueñas! *Hoy* Ablaza! (Laughs)

How long have you been friends?

J: Since we were 6 years old?

A: Yeah, about that age. So *mga*...

J: 14 years.

A: *Tagal na pala. Hindi pa ba tayo nagkakasawaan?* (Smiles)

J: *Ewan ko sa'yo. Ikaw lang naman yung dikit ng dikit sa akin*, eh! (Laughs)

What's the best thing about each other?

A: *Naku, drama na 'to. 'Wag ka iiyak ha?* (Laughs)

J: *Seryoso to, pare.* Basketball. (More laughter)

A: Seriously, we both have the same interests. *Tapos* we do things together pa. *Yan*, we play basketball together. *Palagi pala akong panalo* (smiles). *Tapos* other sports *pa*.

J: We have so many things in common. Like our birthdays, one day apart *lang*. Funny thing is, we sometimes feel that we live the same life *na*.

What's the best thing about your friendship?

A: Well, being childhood friends is one thing. Remaining friends is another. Despite the fact na we don't spend that much time together, everything's the way it's supposed to be. Nothing has changed.

J: *'Yun, tapos* we don't get tired of each other. Plus the fact that we've practically grown up together *kaya wala nang* surprises.

A: None that you know of. (Laughter)

Do you fight?

J: Never *pa naman*.

A: *Sana never na.*

What do you do when you're together?

J: Nothing freaky. (Laughter)

A: Just about anything *na hindi freaky*. (Laughs) Hang out, *tambay*, basketball...

J: *Kwentuhan*, go out with other friends.

A: *Yun nga. Kahit ano. Basta* nothing freaky. (Laughter)

Long-distance friendship

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

STEPHANIE Singson and Cammy Yu have been best friends ever since they met on the first day of school in first grade at the International School Manila.

Came high school graduation and then Cammy moved to Seattle for college, .following in the footsteps of her sister and cousins, while Steph remained in the country.

Despite the distance, Steph and Cammy have regularly kept in touch through e-mail and phone calls, proving that clearly, nothing—certainly not distance—can keep them from always being best friends.

Steph took two years off after graduating high school and is currently applying for college in the Philippines.

Cammy is a college sophomore in Bellevue, Washington, and is working in a Japanese restaurant at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle.

How did you meet?

Steph (S): We met on the first day of school in first grade at ISM. We both loved horses and we instantly got along. And by coincidence we were also put in the same second-grade class!

Cammy (C): She was the first friend I ever had in IS!

How long have you been friends?

S: Me and Cams have known each other and have been best friends since first grade. That's 14 years!

C: Ever since first grade, she has been my sister!

What's the best thing about each other?

S: The best things about Cammy are her happy disposition, her getting along with all sorts of people, and her being nonjudgmental about other people.

C: We [have] always [remained] very close. She knows me so well and always has the right words for me. We can sit around doing nothing, yet always have something to laugh about.

What's the best thing about your friendship?

S: It's how close we are, just like sisters. Even though she has moved to Seattle, we keep in touch through e-mail every week, and nothing's changed. It's just like she never left. We exchange advice, try to bring out the best in each other, and talk about anything and everything under the sun. We also totally understand each other, like having a twin, although we have different personalities.

C: Knowing that there is someone that will always be my best friend even if we are so far way from each other.

What do you do when you're together?

S: When she comes to visit for Christmas break, we don't need to go out at night just to have fun. Sometimes we'll stay over at each other's house, but usually we go to a quiet café and catch up on things, and if either one of us is feeling down, just each other's presence is enough to bring comfort to us.

C: Catch up on our lives. [We] go swimming, jogging and indoor wall-climbing. [We also go] shopping, watch movies and hang out with friends. Just the usual stuff. We love to talk while drinking coffee or iced tea, and it can last forever!

Do you fight?

St: Nope. We never really have anything to fight about, or if we kinda argue, we laugh about it after a few minutes.

C: Yes, but they only last a few minutes. The longest [time] was a day of not talking during senior year, and I missed her company so much.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

Buddies in whatever form

From page C1

Two's company for old friends

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

JAPANESE-Filipino Tomoe Hino and Spanish-Filipino-British Shem Garcia, both 23, have known each other since they were 6 years old.

Garcia moved back from London not too long ago. As Hino's *tita* had a three-bedroom apartment in Makati and their parents knew each other (not to mention rent was cheap), the two got one of the units and have been roommates ever since.

Since both are busy in school or with work during the day, they get to see each other only at night and on Sundays, which they call their "Couch Potato Day."

Hino studies at College of St. Benilde and is a graphic artist at MTV Philippines. Garcia is an accounts executive at Foot Cone and Belding.

How did you meet?

Shem (S): We met when my family brought me back from Manila to Cebu [and enrolled me] in a school where my cousin studied. Tom was one of my new classmates and she welcomed me with a kiss, which made me cry and scarred me for life. I knew then that would be the start of a beautiful friendship.

Tomoe (T): I have no recollection of that! I just remember a cute little boy with brown Afro who liked to walk around with his hands behind his back!

How long have you been friends?

Eighteen years... and it's still going and going and going...

What's the best thing about each other?

S: The best thing about Tom is her high energy level and her constant drive to have fun.

T: The best thing about Shem is that I can borrow his accessories and he has one of the biggest hearts [I have ever known]. And he doesn't mind my cooking!

What's the best thing about your friendship?

S: We're both really different, yet we've found kindred spirits in each other. And we're both free sprits so we don't have to hold back whenever we're with each other.

Do you fight?

S: We have our catfights at times. Who would be best friends if they didn't fight? And Tom is freakishly strong for a girl!

What do you do when you're together?

T: Just like any normal friends, we watch television and go out with other friends. Every night we fight over what to watch on TV—"Buffy"/"Dawson" or "Animal Planet"/"CSI." Shem's also a big geek role player and sets up RPG games every other Saturday night at the apartment.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

Exes-turned-good-friends

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

THERE'S a saying that goes, "Good friends can become lovers, but never the other way around."

But that isn't necessarily true. Just ask 21-year-old University of Asia and the Pacific senior Jenni Tayag and 21-year-old University of Santo Tomas fifth year student Jep Friginal.

Jenni and Jep started out as friends, and that friendship later blossomed into romance. They tried out the relationship, but after almost a year, they realized they were better off as friends. And they really did get back to being good friends (unlike some people who mutter "let's just be friends" as a form of brush-off). Here they are to share their tale.

How did you meet?

Jenni: We first met when my friend Denise invited me to her cousin's birthday dinner. But we didn't get to talk then. He didn't even know that I was there! When my friend's sister celebrated her 18th birthday, we were formally introduced by another friend. After that, we started talking over the phone and soon we got to know each other better.

How long have you been friends?

We've been friends for four years.

What do you do when you're together?

Jenni: We like to watch movies and TV sitcoms. After class, he'd pick me up from school, then we would go to the mall and watch a movie. We also like to eat a lot [grins]. Even if we've had lunch or dinner, we'd still buy food and bring it into the theater. Then after the movie, we'd eat some more.

What's the best thing about each other?

Jep: I like her because she's simple and easy to please.

Jenni: I like his sarcasm, and the way he makes me laugh.

What's the best thing about your friendship?

We made a promise that we'd always tell the truth and be honest with each another. That would probably be the best thing in our relationship. Another is that we can just be ourselves and be comfortable with each other.

Do you fight?

Seldom. We've never had a serious argument. We usually fight over petty things *lang*.

Was there any friction between you two after breaking up?

After breaking up, it was easy for us to become friends again. There wasn't any tension between us since we ended in good terms. Our friendship changed when we became a couple, and so we missed the kind of relationship we had. We realized that it was easier for us when we were just good friends, when there were no expectations from each other.

How did you remain good friends despite being each other's exes?

Since we have the same set of friends, it didn't require a lot of effort. We'd still go out with the group during weekends. The night we broke up, we made a deal that our friendship would go back to normal, and it did.

High School friends

By Saleema Refran
2bU! Correspondent

THE TEENAGE years are probably the most turbulent and confusing years of anyone's life. But despite all the trials and difficulties, these two friends were able to hang on to each other during those tough years.

Yasmin Refran, 18, and Stacey Carmela Salazar, 19, are both studying at UP Diliman.

How did you meet?

Stacey (S): As fate would have it, Yas and I were put in the same class back in first year *sa* Pisay (Philippine Science High School).

Yasmin (Y): Yeah. There I was, trying to be a loner, *kaya lang* she had to ruin my grand plan by coming up to me and saying, (assuming a perky tone) "Hi! I'm Stacey! What's your name?"

S: Hey! I didn't sound like that!

Y: Yes, you did, Stay. (Grins)

How long have you been friends?

S: Since June 1, 1998. You do the math. (Smiles)

Y: That would be five years, 17 days and approximately 10 hours.

What's the best thing about each other?

Y: Well, total opposites *kami*. But we're also so alike it's scary. We complement each other. I start saying something, she ends it the way I would. The term "kindred spirit" comes to mind.

S: I'll be honest. This is one tough question. There's not just one thing that can be labeled best about Yas. As cheesy as it may sound, the best thing about Yas is that she is who she is.

Y: Shucks, Stay. *Ang* sentimental *natin ha!* (Laughs)

What's the best thing about your friendship?

S: It transcends change. *Kasi* no matter how much we grow up, no matter how many things happen that mold us into different people, our friendship will always be there.

Y: *Inunahan niya kong sumagot.* (Laughs) Seriously, though, our friendship is very-low maintenance. First year *lang kami naging* classmates, but we still managed to become best friends.

S: Yeah. Weird *'no*?

Y: The fact that we know we are each other's security blanket no matter what strengthens our bond.

Do you fight?

Both: No.

Y: Amazing.

S: Never have. Hopefully never will. (Smiles)

What do you do when you're together?

Y: Anything we can possibly think of doing.

S: We laugh. Go figure. It speaks for itself. (Laughs)

Y: One more bonding session, I'm going to barf.

S: See? We're such a happy pair.

> The question really isn't how you met but how long you make your friendships last

College Friends

By Saleema Refran
2bU! Correspondent

COLLEGE is a whole different world compared to high school. These two found each other in their first year in college and are now rocking the walls of UP for a few more fun years.

Giancarla Espinosa and Patricia Dimaano, both 20 (but still stuck at 15), are students at UP Diliman.

How did you meet?

Giancarla (G): It was during our Kasaysayan II class. She was the girl who always sat behind me and I could feel her giving me the evil eye all the time.

Patricia (P): I wasn't actually being mean or anything. I was just a bit uncomfortable in the class because I wasn't with my blockmates. But we became friends ever since we bought this guy in this org auction. (Giggles)

G: For the record, she wasn't mean *naman talaga*. I could just feel... disapproval? (Giggles) Anyway, it was Tan, the guy we bid for to be our guardian in our org, that made us friends. Patty was funny because she was the one who wanted to shell out the most bucks for the guy. (Laughs)

How long have you been friends?

P: Two years?

G: Yup. About two years, 30 Edsa rides and two internships.

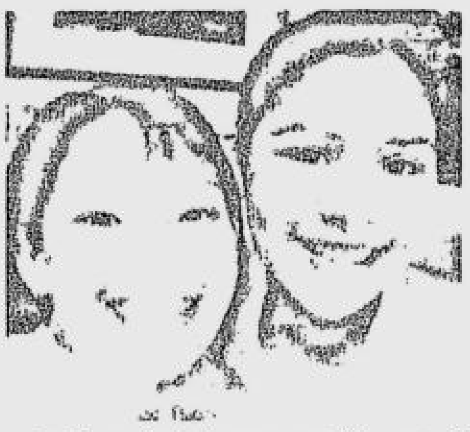
What's the best thing about each other?

P: Carla's such a bunch of joy. She's just a happy clam. It's very contagious! (Laughs)

G: Clam, huh? See? That's what I like about her! She's so funny. And perky. And nice. Seriously, I've never heard her say anything bad about anyone.

P: I think that's why we're friends. We're both very positive.

What's the best thing about your friendship?



G: It's so fun! I mean, not like one of those friendships you always hear about, with lots of fighting, jealousy and weird situations à la "Dawson's Creek." Ours is so simple. We're friends and we have fun.

P: Exactly! Ours is refreshing. Plus our friendship is based so much on the good times because we don't dwell on the bad ones—because we don't have any! Yey!

Do you fight?

P: Nope. Never had, never did.

G: No. Know why? Because I know when to shut up when she's *inis* na.

P: Not with her *naman*. Kasi when we're with our other friends, *minsan*, I get pissed off and then they'd ask *pa*, "O, what's wrong?" *Lalo ako naiinis!*

What do you do when you're together?

P: The usual. Talk about other people. (Grins mischievously)

G: Laugh. Sometimes we just start laughing and we can't stop. We don't even remember what was so funny in the first place. What can I say? We're happy people!

P: For a time, we'd have really long discussions about that San Mig ad. Anyway, we talk a lot. I mean, we talk about everything. And yeah, we laugh a lot. Never a dull moment with Carla.

G: That's because we're not dull, Patty. (Laughs)

PHOTO: SALEEMA DEVI REFRAN

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The friends we have

By Arlene M. Paredes
2bU! Correspondent

FRIENDS. They don't belong to our large clan yet they are closer to us than most of our family members or relatives. Sometimes, during intense arguments with our siblings, we are even inclined to think that our friends love us more than our siblings do.

If we're in their room or house, we feel at home. We treat their family as our own. With them, we feel relaxed and comfortable, happy with having all the things we need and being where we want to be.

Most of the best memories we treasure are moments with friends. Some of the best places we've gone to, we've seen with friends.

Types of friends

Ever noticed how different your friends are from one another? Ever noticed how different they are from you in terms of mood swings, interests and overall attitude?

Love, respect and an interesting mix of characters bond friends together both in good and bad times. I feel blessed for having found my friends and I'm proud to have chosen them. We may not be able to control who we fall in love with, but thank God we can choose our friends.

It's our choice whether we will tell them our life's secrets or not. It's our choice whether to trust them or not. I've opened my life to the friends I've chosen and I can honestly say choosing them was one of the best things I've ever done. I owe a lot to them for the happy person that I am now.

In retrospect, I realized I have at least five types of friends. Read on and find out if you have them in your life, too!

The Analyst

They're the type of friend who seems to have all the time in the world to listen to all your thoughts, angst and all kinds of feelings.

They are your *barkada's* "official shrink." They will ask for all the details of your story and they will give meaning to the seemingly most insignificant coincidences of the day. On a funny note, sometimes they'd tell you that Fate would purposely play songs over the radio while you're remembering or thinking of someone.

Don't try to lie to them because they will most probably know the truth simply by looking through your eyes, anyway. Besides, if they know you enough, lying would only be funny, if not humiliating, especially once the crisis is over.

If you're in love or you think you feel something that's more than a crush for someone, you would want your analyst friends to appear in front of you, pronto!

However, when you're seriously confused and you don't think you know what your heart really calls for, you'd like to leave them for a while until you figure out where you stand lest they confuse you even more.

The Sounding Board

If you want to hear your own "stupid" thoughts or feelings and you know you don't need to hear judgments in return, you open up to them without hesitation. They will simply listen and give you the language of the eyes. There's a distinct feel of empathy around them and you know that even if they might not completely understand you, your thoughts and feelings are safe with them.

When you just broke up with your boyfriend, for example, you come to them with a ready hanky. You won't hear any "I told you so" or "It's your fault." You'll love them for their warm presence and comforting silence.

They trust your wit and they believe in your capacity to resolve your own conflicts. Call them anytime, they'll be there just to listen.

The Joker

They are definitely who you need in any long trip and during slumber parties. They endlessly crack jokes and give belly-aching punchlines just when you are sipping cola.

You wouldn't want them to drive lest they miss a big truck along the road. You wonder how and where they get all their fresh jokes. Maybe they have a list of jokes which they review a night before you hang around together.

If they're absent in your slumber party, you would end up sleeping just when your stories should be picking up.

The Peacemaker

No one messes with a peacemaker. No one succeeds, that's why. They will see the brightest side of any dark predicament and they seem to have been born with prudence and sobriety right on top of their heads.

They teach you to choose your battles and save your energy for the worthy opponents. They don't directly tell you that you're being unreasonable. Instead, they'd tell you to calm down.

If you think something's bothering you but you don't know exactly what it is, you text or call them for enlightenment. Sometimes, they give you profound fortune cookie types of messages, but they rarely fail in appeasing your battered soul.

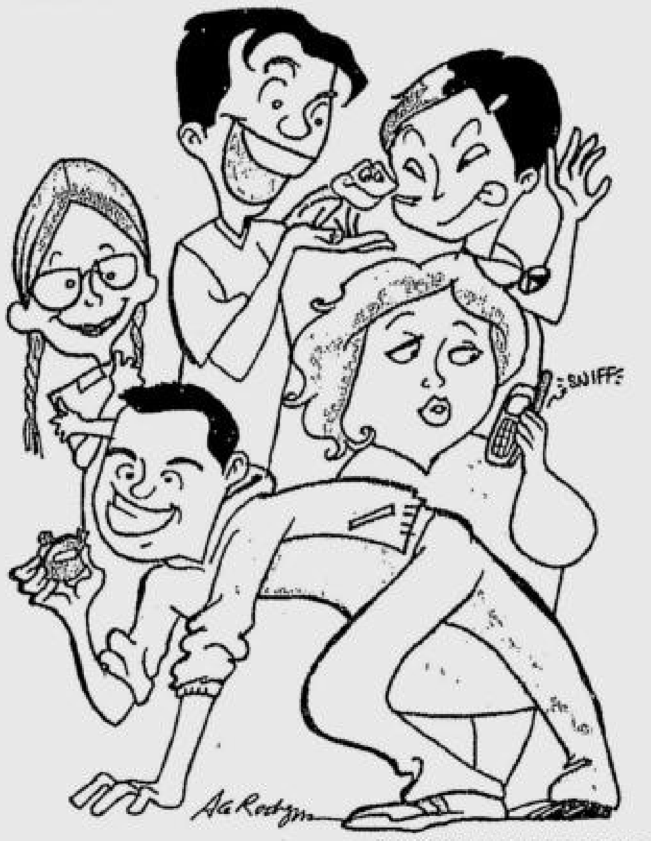

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I've realized I have five types of friends. Read on and find out if you have them in your life, too!

The Coach

The coach is your No. 1 fan and your worst critic, backing you up in your races and endeavors, whether in sports, politics or whatever pleases you.

They will not pamper you with endless lip service. Instead, they will candidly tell you how you're faring in the race and what you can do to reach your goal. They will inspire and motivate you and they will urge you not to give up on your dreams.

You will feel that they'll be the last to turn their backs on you if you fail. In fact, in your worst fall and bitterest defeat, they'll be the first ones to be there to ask you to dust off and try again.

Friends wouldn't normally be of one type only. No one type is really more important than another. In fact, I have friends who shift from being a sounding board to an analyst depending on my mood, her feelings or the mood of the group. I can be a joker and an analyst at the same time. I can be a coach. I rarely become a sounding board, though. And I don't recall having been a peacemaker at all.

But I'm glad I have people in my life who can be someone I can't be for myself, especially in times when I need help the most.

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net

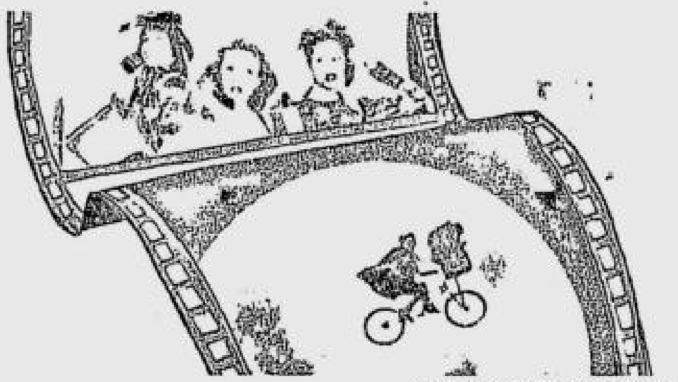

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

FRIENDSHIP is a real pet when it comes to movie themes. It could be because it's something that the viewers can appreciate and easily relate to. Or it could also be because there are so many ways to expound on the subject and portray the complexities involved in it.

In fact, even the most unlikely films have something to say about it. How about "Terminator" and the friendship between the young boy and the android? Or those Gene Autry movies you'd think are all about shooting at the rustlers? Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto!

Here are some of the things that the movies teach about friendship:

- **Friends enjoy common ground.** It could be similar incidents in life like in the movie "Simon Birch." The two boys in the story cottoned to each other because of their status as town outcasts. Simon is poked fun at because he is a midget, while Joe is mocked because he was born out of wedlock (the setting of the movie is the early '60s in a provincial little town in Maine).

I guess there's really nothing like shared misery to bring two people together. Common ground can also mean mutual interests, like in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." Just goes to show that even thieves have their kindred spirits.

- **Friends work around differences.** Have you ever noticed how the creators of film or book cliques are careful to make the members unique from each other?

These distinctions are supposed to complement each other and make friends work well together. Such is the case in "Now and Then," where Sam is your troubled New Age enthusiast, Teeny is your prissy movie star wannabe, Roberta is your feisty tomboy and Chrissy is your naïve Mama's Girl.

If you're in a group like this, either you get to do things you'd never even consider doing on your own, or you can count on the other girls to take care of the parts you'd rather skip.

- **Friends can overlook faults.** Nobody's perfect anyway. So maybe Corey Feldman's character in "Stand by Me" is a little loony for the other boys' comfort, but they still accept him as a part of their gang.

How about Drew Barrymore's in "Boys on the Side?" She is a slut who has accidentally killed a man, but Whoopi Goldberg and Mary Louise Parker still love her and vice versa, despite the other two's shortcomings as well.

- **Friends stick by you during hard times.** In "Fried Green Tomatoes," Mary Stuart Masterson and Mary Louise Parker are spunky Southern women from early 20th-century Alabama whose friendship survives an abusive husband, a seriously injured child and a murder trial.

Watching this sentimental movie about friendship, I see how hardships can really bring out a person's sterling qualities.

- **Friends are willing to make sacrifices.** When it comes to sacrifices, almost everyone automatically thinks of Thelma in "Thelma and Louise." What she does just warrants two to three years in jail, but she chooses to stay by her friend's side. I suppose the liberating experience she has just gone through with Louise is enough to keep her sane during those years in prison.

Another story of sacrifice is shown in "Beaches." Just listen to Bette Midler sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" and you'll get an idea of the sacrifice that Barbara Hershey's character makes for her friend.

- **Friends can overcome great obstacles together.** Okay, maybe Tai's fashion sense isn't that big a hurdle in "Clueless," but for Cher and Di, it's definitely a serious matter.

But if you insist on a big obstacle, need I elaborate on the greatness of Eliot and E.T.'s? First, they encounter all sorts of trouble because of E.T.'s presence. After that, there is the problem of getting E.T. back home, and finally, they face the pain of actually having to say goodbye.

But even the complication of space travel cannot hinder the friendship between earthling and alien. As E.T. states, "I'll be right here."

- **Friends can help you triumph, and they're certainly good for reinforcement.** Incidentally, a lot of girl-bonding movies show this. In "The First Wives Club," Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton join forces to get revenge on their ex-husbands, who had dumped them for younger women.

"The Divine Secrets of the Ya-ya Sisterhood," on the other hand, traces the friendship of four women back to their girlhood and how it sustains them through numerous tragedies.

Other movies with a similar lesson are "Waiting to Exhale," "The Joy Luck Club," "Steel Magnolias" and the French drama "Entre Nous."

- **Friends make life more beautiful.** They sure can make you see the world in a more special way.

In the touching story of "The Mighty," a brilliant but physically handicapped boy and his strong but mentally-challenged neighbor help each other fill the gaps in their worlds. They set off on one adventure after another, bringing a formerly elusive happiness into each other's life.

- **Friendship is definitely a good theme for movies.** It's not always sunshine and inspiration, though. Some do depict the dark and twisted side of it like in "Heavenly Creatures" where Juliet (Kate Winslet) and Pauline (Melanie Lynskey) decide to murder Pauline's mother because she was trying to keep the friends apart. The sad thing is that this movie was actually based on a true story!

Notwithstanding that, friendship is an important and heartening part of life. Making friends or being one is a cool thing. In fact, it's just the stuff movies are made of.

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Text and photos by Happy David
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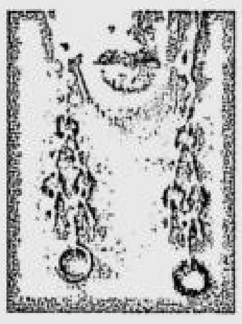
THE MALL. Whether after school or on weekends, we all love to go there and shop.

Combining our mallrat culture with this week's theme, 2bU takes a creative look at one of our favorite pastimes…



"The secret to friendship is being a good listener." —Unknown
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and
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Present
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Island Tour 2003
A fashionable tribute to Mother Earth
A true Filipina beauty who cares for and helps in the preservation of the environment
See a parade of beauties at Robinsons Place Novaliches! Watch the winners and finalists of Miss Philippines 2003 as they hit the ramp for their 2003 Island Tour kick off.
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ROBINSONS Place NOVALICHES

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
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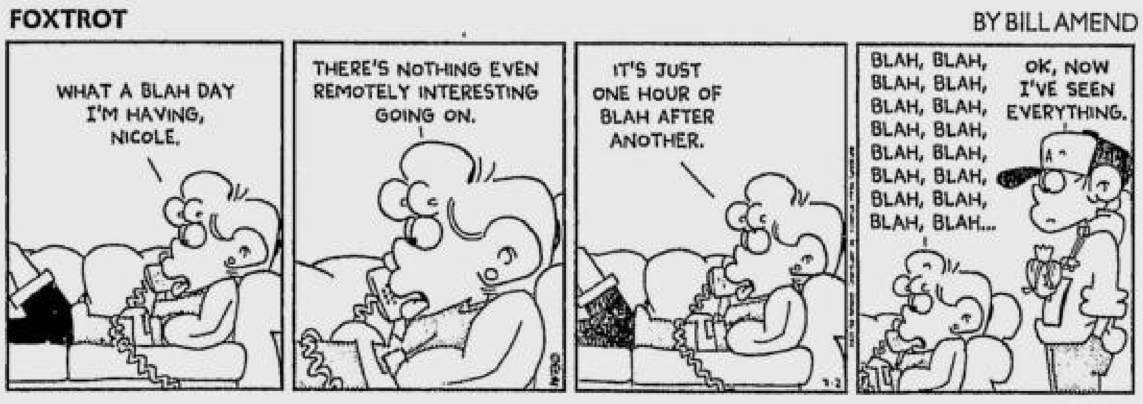
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2003

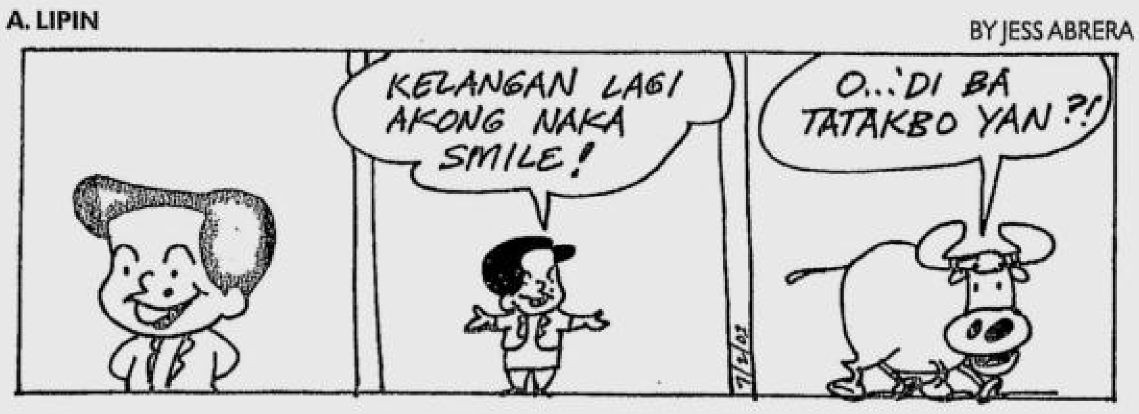
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT A BLAH DAY I'M HAVING, NICOLE.
THERE'S NOTHING EVEN REMOTELY INTERESTING GOING ON.
IT'S JUST ONE HOUR OF BLAH AFTER ANOTHER.
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...
OK, NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING.
7-2

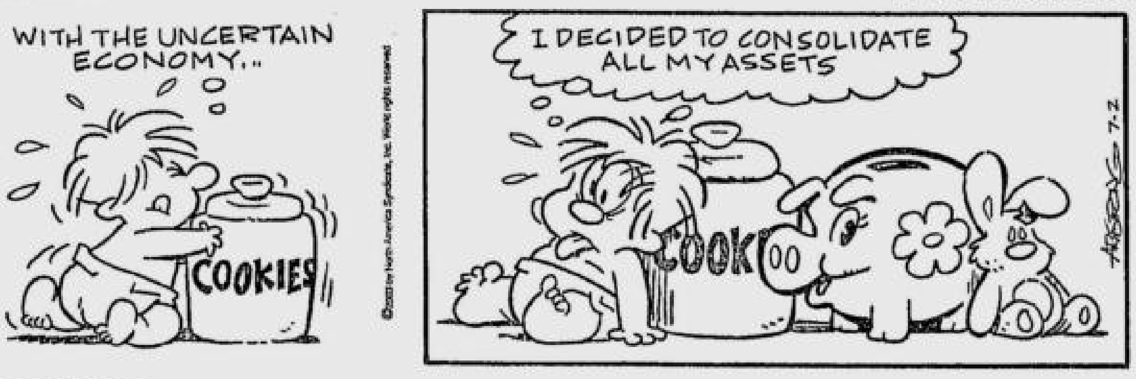
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN LAGI AKONG NAKA SMILE!
O...'DI BA TATAKBO YAN ?!
7/2/03

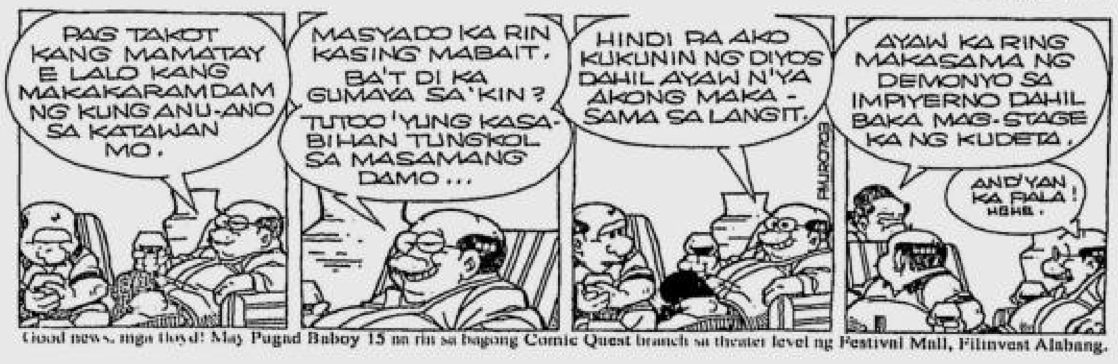
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WITH THE UNCERTAIN ECONOMY...
COOKIES
I DECIDED TO CONSOLIDATE ALL MY ASSETS
COOK
7-2

PUGAD BABOY

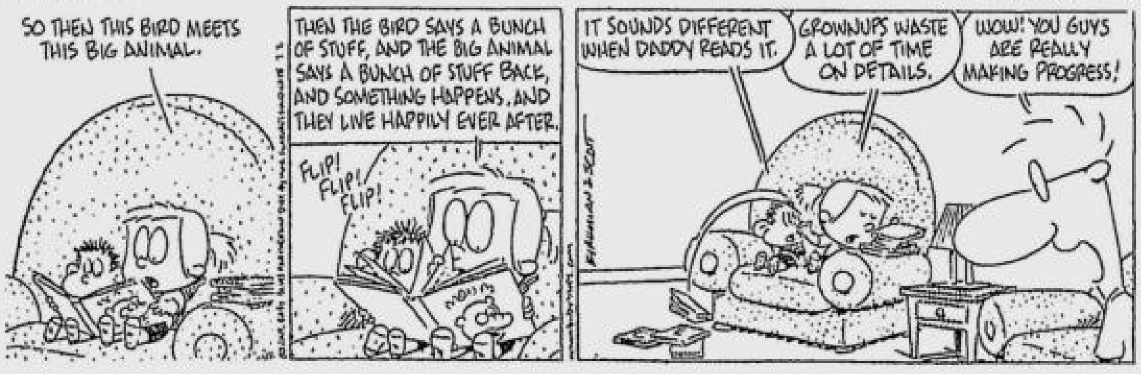
BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG TAKOT KANG MAMATAY E LALO KANG MAKAKARAMDAM NG KUNG ANU-ANO SA KATAWAN MO.
MASYADO KA RIN KASING MABAIT. BA'T DI KA GUMAYA SA'KIN ?
TUTOO 'YUNG KASABIHAN TUNGKOL SA MASAMANG DAMO...
HINDI PA AKO KUKUNIN NG DIYOS DAHIL AYAW N'YA AKONG MAKASAMA SA LANGIT.
AYAW KA RING MAKASAMA NG DEMONYO SA IMPIYERNO DAHIL BAKA MAG-STAGE KA NG KUDETA.
AND'YAN KA PALA! HEHE.

Good news, mga tloyd! May Pugad Baboy 15 na rin sa bagong Comic Quest branch sa theater level ng Festival Mall, Filinvest Alabang.

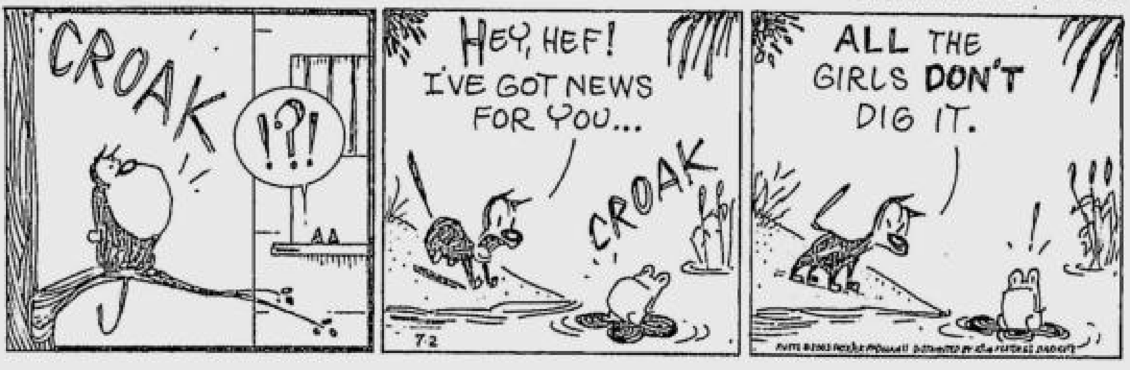
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO THEN THIS BIRD MEETS THIS BIG ANIMAL.
THEN THE BIRD SAYS A BUNCH OF STUFF, AND THE BIG ANIMAL SAYS A BUNCH OF STUFF BACK, AND SOMETHING HAPPENS, AND THEY LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
FLIP! FLIP! FLIP!
IT SOUNDS DIFFERENT WHEN DADDY READS IT.
GROWNUPS WASTE A LOT OF TIME ON DETAILS.
WOW! YOU GUYS ARE REALLY MAKING PROGRESS!

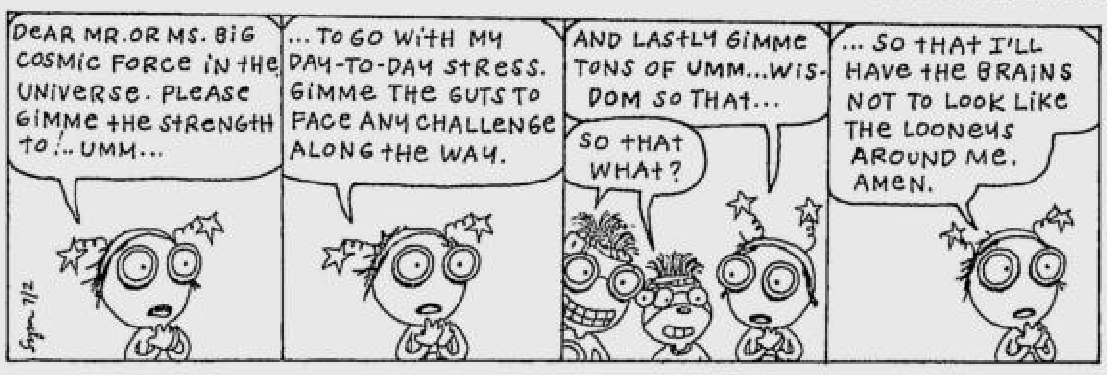
.MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CROAK
!?!
HEY, HEF! I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU...
CROAK
7-2
ALL THE GIRLS DON'T DIG IT.
!

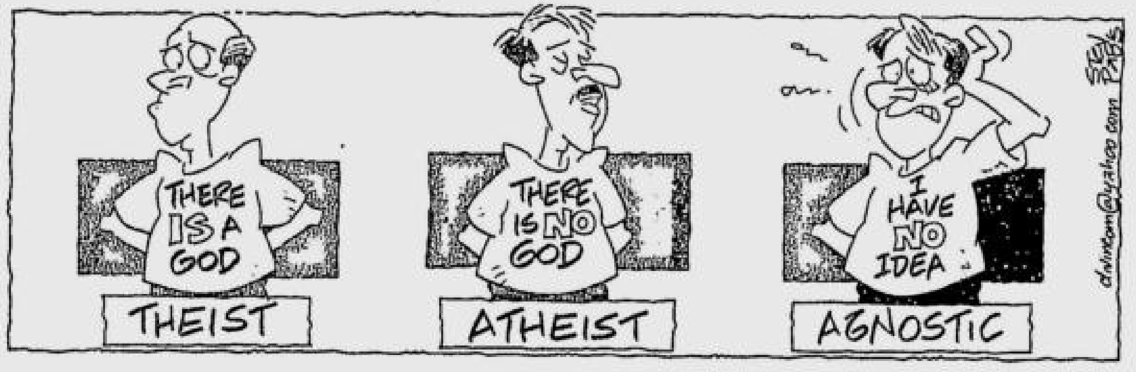
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DEAR MR. OR MS. BIG COSMIC FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE. PLEASE GIMME THE STRENGTH TO...UMM...
...TO GO WITH MY DAY-TO-DAY STRESS. GIMME THE GUTS TO FACE ANY CHALLENGE ALONG THE WAY.
AND LASTLY GIMME TONS OF UMM...WISDOM SO THAT...
SO THAT WHAT?
...SO THAT I'LL HAVE THE BRAINS NOT TO LOOK LIKE THE LOONEYS AROUND ME. AMEN.
7/2

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THERE IS A GOD
THEIST
THERE IS NO GOD
ATHEIST
I HAVE NO IDEA
AGNOSTIC
STEV PABS
divinkom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are imaginative and at times flamboyant. You are conscientious about your responsibilities in life. You often play a role in encouraging others. Because you do not want to be a burden to anyone, you keep your problems to yourself. Expect significant changes in a number of areas of your life this year.

Birthdate of: Thurgood Marshall, US Supreme Court justice; Dave Thomas, entrepreneur; Medgar Evers, civil-rights leader.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel flirtatious and friendly to everyone you meet today. This is a good day to catch a movie, watch sports or flirt with the object of your heart's desire.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You'll enjoy shopping for your home or family members today. Items connected with home entertainment are a particularly good bet now. So is real estate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Even though your focus is on money and work right now, you feel playful and upbeat today. Nevertheless, it's a good day to buy, sell, negotiate and sign contracts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can definitely make more money this year. The question is—how? Today, in particular, is one of the days that you can figure this out. (Good luck.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is in your sign today, bringing you good fortune! Now is the time to ask the universe for a favor. (Ask for anything that you want a "yes" answer to.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Secrets might be revealed to you today. Something private is definitely taking place. That's why discussions with friends might be juicy. Be kind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel especially emotional with a friend today. You might be in a position to help this person. At the very least, you can offer pleasant company.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're in an excellent position to promote your good name or further your career today. People around you easily respect you now. It's a good day to talk to the boss.

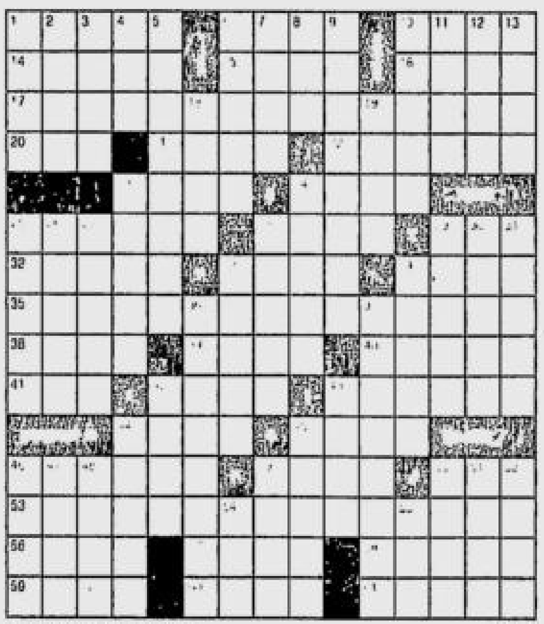
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's Leo Moon goes well with your fiery Sagittarian Sun. Discussions about travel and distant places might trigger the wanderlust in you. You love to see those telephone poles going by.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): If you have to divide property or decide who is responsible for something today, you might come out ahead. Do not shy away from these discussions. You will get your fair share.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Someone close to you has your best interests at heart today. Of course, you have been free and easy with your money lately.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Work at getting better organized today. And while you're at it, try to get more physical exercise. Mars in your sign makes you restless.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

7/2/03

ACROSS
1 Single-masted vessel
6 Artist Chagall
10 Diplomat's skill
14 "The Lost Galleon" poet
15 Asian sea
16 Race in "The Time Machine"
17 Ignorance
20 Teachers' grp.
21 Poet Van Duyn
22 Mark with blotches
23 Bog
24 Contradict
25 Edit
28 Color variation
29 Singer Janis
32 Type of stage
33 Presley hit
34 Choir part
35 Trivial
38 Prevaricator
39 Be adjacent to
40 "A Rage to Live" author
41 Part of SSS
42 Gumshoe's lead
43 Laxative from rhubarb
44 Fingerboard increment
45 Speaker of baseball
46 Small crowns
49 Wide smile
50 Malleable metal
53 Close-mouthed
56 Ball-shaped cheese
57 Urgent letters?
58 Occupied
59 Piggybacked
60 Thurmond of basketball
61 Beethoven's "Fur __"

DOWN
1 Front of a calf
2 Highway subdivision
3 Killer whale
4 Of the ear
5 Native American rations
6 Seine tributary
7 Geometry calculation
8 Fan support
9 San __, CA
10 Irritable
11 Touched down
12 Aloof
13 Pitchfork prong
18 Left aboard
19 __ of the above
23 Lord's domicile
24 Dunkable snack
25 Streetcar tracks
26 "Sesame Street" Muppet
27 Decorative transfer
28 Close-fitting hat
29 Trojan War tale
30 Video-game company
31 Pitcher Ryan
33 First night
34 Porthos' pal
36 Willy Loman, e.g.
37 Propose for election
42 Stuff
43 Actor Roberts
44 "Ethan __"
45 Nonsense
46 Amphitheater level
47 Chinese leader?
48 Part of USMA
49 Itsy-bitsy biter
50 Polynesian amulet
51 Currier's partner
52 Oahu goose
54 "Born in the __"
55 Russian chess master

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	M	■	N	A	B	S	■	S	H	E	D	S
I	O	W	A	■	A	S	E	A	■	C	U	R	I	A
S	O	O	N	■	S	T	A	G	■	A	M	I	S	S
■	P	L	E	A	S	E	D	A	S	P	U	N	C	H
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	■	■	H	E	S	■	■	■
A	H	L	■	A	U	N	T	I	E	S	■	H	E	F
L	O	Y	A	L	■	■	U	T	E	■	F	I	J	I
T	I	C	K	L	E	D	T	O	P	I	E	C	E	S
E	L	L	A	■	L	E	E	■	■	C	Z	E	C	H
R	Y	E	■	B	A	S	E	N	J	I	■	S	T	Y
■	■	■	U	R	N	■	■	A	O	N	E	■	■	■
F	I	L	L	E	D	W	I	T	H	G	L	E	E	■
A	N	I	T	A	■	O	D	I	N	■	E	T	A	L
S	T	A	R	T	■	A	E	O	N	■	C	U	R	E
T	O	R	A	H	■	D	E	N	Y	■	T	I	N	T

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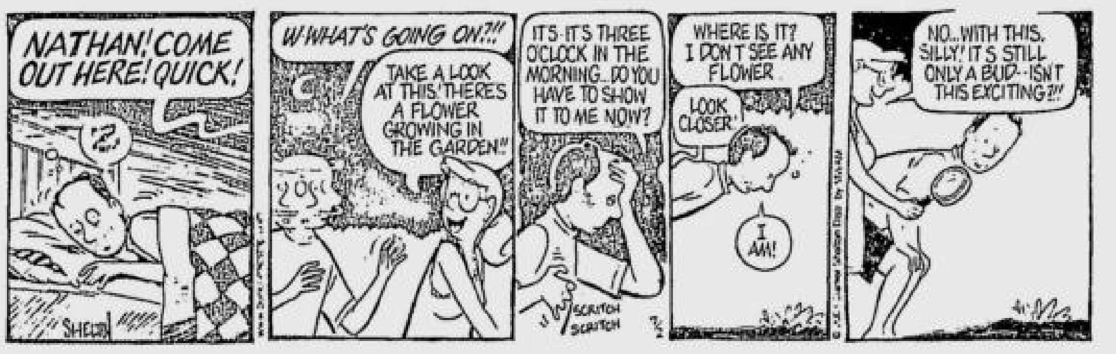
7/2/03

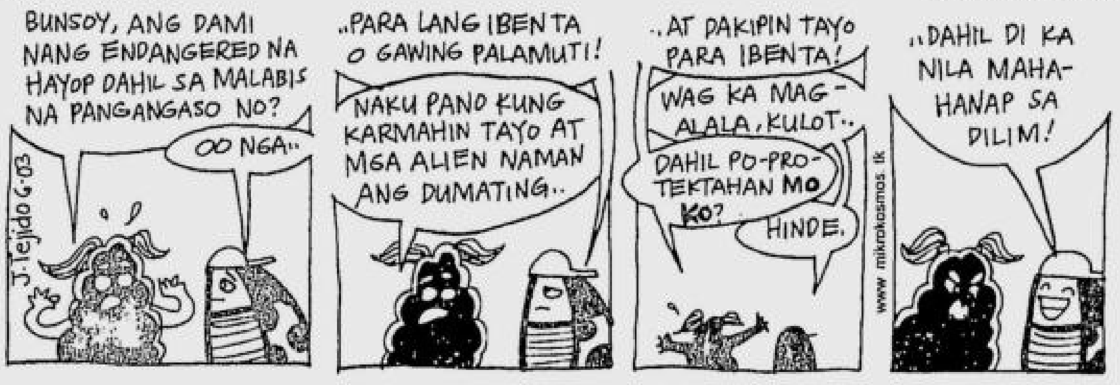
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NATHAN! COME OUT HERE! QUICK!
Z
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! THERE'S A FLOWER GROWING IN THE GARDEN!!
IT'S-IT'S THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING...DO YOU HAVE TO SHOW IT TO ME NOW?
SCRITCH SCRITCH
WHERE IS IT? I DON'T SEE ANY FLOWER.
LOOK CLOSER.
I AM!
NO...WITH THIS, SILLY! IT'S STILL ONLY A BUD--ISN'T THIS EXCITING?!!

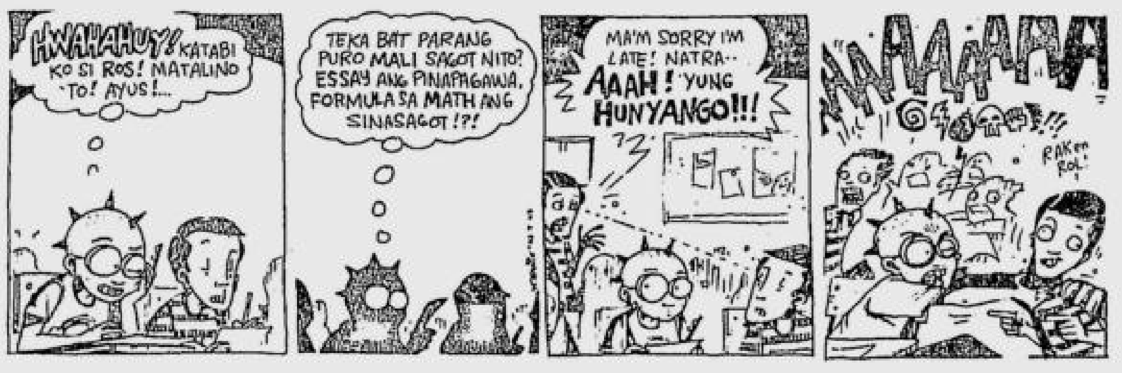
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, ANG DAMI NANG ENDANGERED NA HAYOP DAHIL SA MALABIS NA PANGANGASO NO?
OO NGA..
J. Tejido 6-03
..PARA LANG IBENTA O GAWING PALAMUTI!
NAKU PANO KUNG KARMAHIN TAYO AT MGA ALIEN NAMAN ANG DUMATING..
..AT DAKIPIN TAYO PARA IBENTA!
WAG KA MAG-ALALA, KULOT..
DAHIL PO-PROTEKTAHAN MO KO?
HINDE.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..DAHIL DI KA NILA MAHAHANAP SA DILIM!

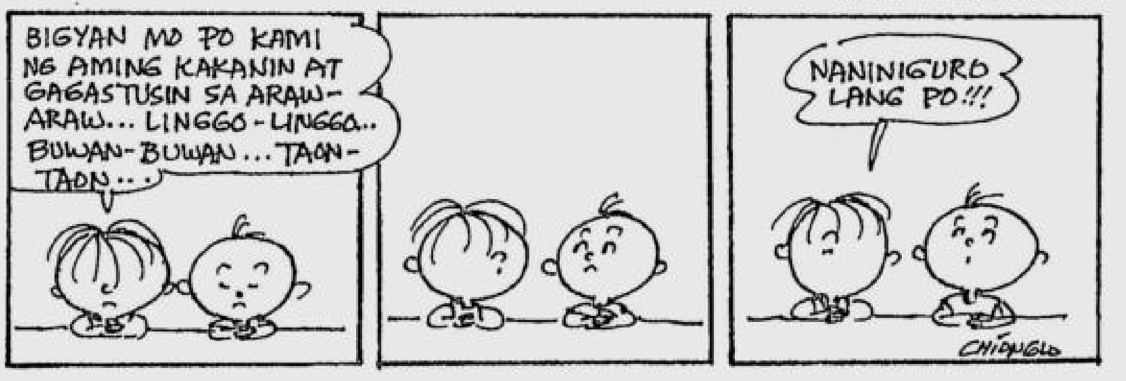
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWAHAHUY! KATABI KO SI ROS! MATALINO 'TO! AYUS!...
TEKA BAT PARANG PURO MALI SAGOT NITO? ESSAY ANG PINAPAGAWA, FORMULA SA MATH ANG SINASAGOT!?!
MA'M SORRY I'M LATE! NATRA-- AAAH! 'YUNG HUNYANGO!!!
AAAAAAAA
RAK en ROL!

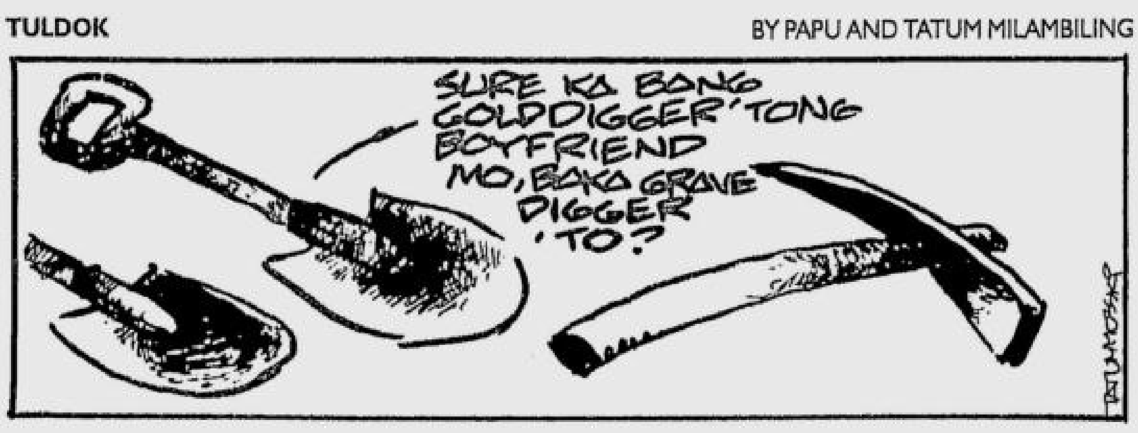
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BIGYAN MO PO KAMI NG AMING KAKANIN AT GAGASTUSIN SA ARAW-ARAW... LINGGO-LINGGO.. BUWAN-BUWAN... TAON-TAON...
NANINIGURO LANG PO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SURE KA BANG GOLDDIGGER 'TONG BOYFRIEND MO, BAKA GRAVE DIGGER 'TO?
TATUM MOSHAR

MEGA muse Asha Macam at Lily

LUX ASIAN! Mia Nolasco-Cuenca is it!

PINEAPPLE PRIDE. Leah Puyat at Lily

SWAK FAMILY! Lex, Candy and Cza Cza Ledesma happily shopping together

ITSIE BITSIES. Cousin bonding between Ines and Carmen Delgado with Lia Infante

GIRL POWER. Marta Tuason Luque, Nikki Revilla and Celine Gabriel

PHOTOS:TIM YAP

Lily of the valley

Upperright

Tim Yap

THEY say big things come in small packages. Last week's hip and hot store opening was reserved for Lily, that too-cute kiosk located beside the escalator at the ground floor of Glorietta 4. The proprietors are the fabulous sisters **Jessica Puyat** and **Wendy Hotung** and their sassy business partner **Maan Santos.**

The city's happening set came in full force to support the trio, and what did they find? Fab, fab chinoise thingamagigs, from unique tops to brocade skirts—all one-of-a-kind pieces (one size per item)—to fill your hunger for eastern elan.

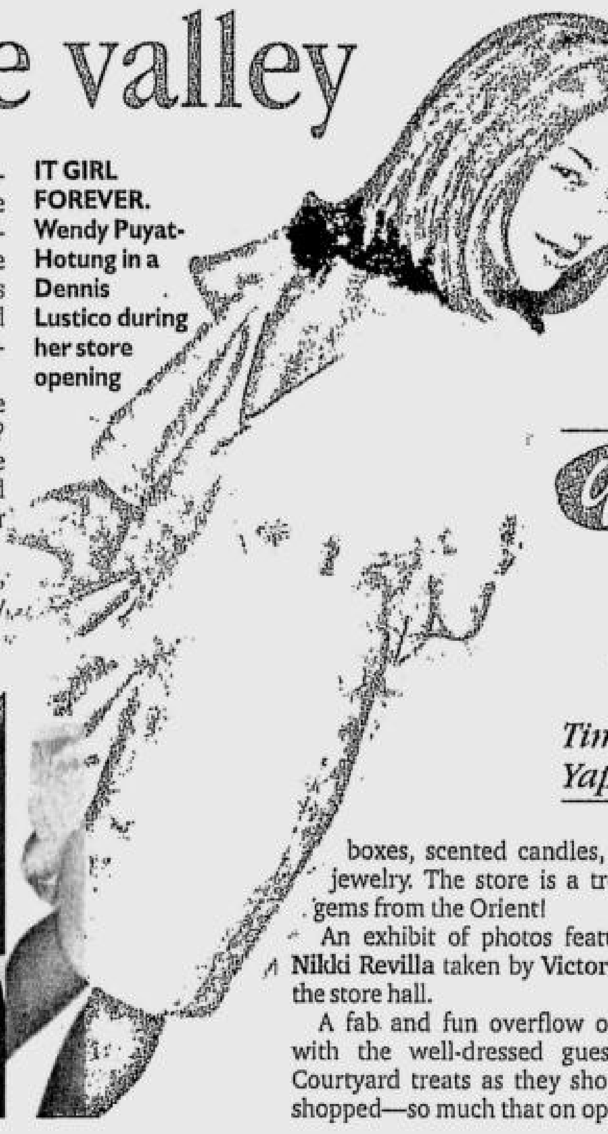
And there's more—slip-ons, clutch bags, picture frames, photo albums, chic jewelry boxes, scented candles, tea cups, even jewelry. The store is a treasure trove of gems from the Orient!

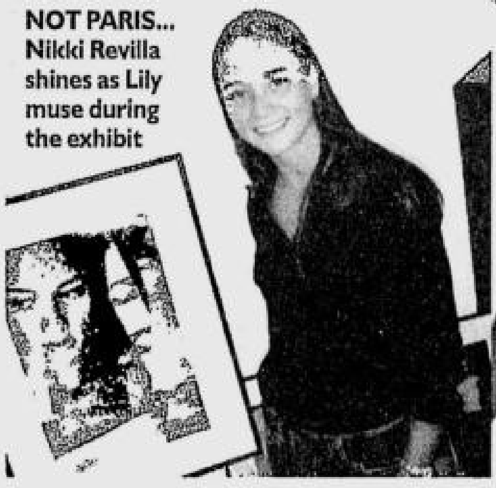
An exhibit of photos featuring "It" chick **Nikki Revilla** taken by **Victor Consunji** lined the store hall.

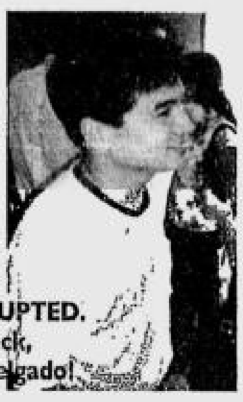
A fab and fun overflow of glam ensued, with the well-dressed guests feasting on Courtyard treats as they shopped, shopped, shopped—so much that on opening day, Lily's merchandise got fully sold out!

All eyes were on Wendy Pooh (as we endearingly call Mrs. Hotung) as she checked on what was left of her lilies. She wore a pink **Dennis Lustico** that matched the color of the Lily logo, which of course, she had so beautifully designed.

Here's to more stores like Lily. Let's spread some oriental luvin'!


IT GIRL FOREVER. Wendy Puyat-Hotung in a Dennis Lustico during her store opening


NOT PARIS... Nikki Revilla shines as Lily muse during the exhibit


BOY UNINTERRUPTED. Welcome back, Francisco Delgado!

SIBLING COOL. Fitz and Jessica Puyat during cocktail hour

MAN OH MAN. Ian Antonino and Derrick Santos

TIGER LILIES. Margo Flores, Maan Santos and Kitkat Zobel

Angels in our midst

Tonight it's kitty time as we don our Hello Kitty's and watch "Charlie's Angels" at My Cinema with our favorite kitty of all time, Tita **Virgie Ramos!**

Thursday, Mega celebrates its most beautiful list, with a most beautiful cocktail party, at Restaurant 12, at 6 p.m.

Friday, let's don our cowboy hats and go wild, wild west as Joey 92.3 holds its annual "Froth of July" party at the NBC Tent, 7 p.m.

Next Tuesday, prepare your "neo-vintage formal" attire as Preview magazine launches its "Style Society"—its 25 best-dressed women—with a gala that features the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines' Shanghai collection as worn by the premiere guys and dolls of the Professional Models Association of the Philippines. Mark it on your fashion calendars.

Have a super July ahead of you, partyphiles!

"The loneliest woman in the world is a woman without a close woman friend."—George Santayana

A close woman friend is someone who can honestly tell you how good you really REALLY look. Sexy Xoxo top with sea green tassel details, U Rustan's: P1,450

"A single rose (or gumamela) can be my garden... a single friend, my world." —Leo Buscaglia, American expert on love, lecturer, author

Bloom in this Hibiscus printed tank from Xoxo, U Rustan's: P1,000+

"What is a friend? I will tell you... it is someone with whom you dare to be yourself." —Frank Crane

Flowery Mixed Print men's top by Dennis Lustico for U Boys: P995

Friendly fashion!

From page D1

"A real friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out." —Proverb

Walk in style in these criss-crossed heeled sandals from Janylin.

Rice
Milk
Gentle Rice
Grains Scrub
HUMAN

"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." —Henry Ford

Scrub away with Rice Milk Gentle Rice Grains Scrub from Human, P100+

"A friend is a gift you give yourself." —Robert Stevenson

Reward yourself for being a good friend with this Thai green net bag with beaded mermaid detail from Firma

"Love is blind, but friendship closes its eyes." —Unknown

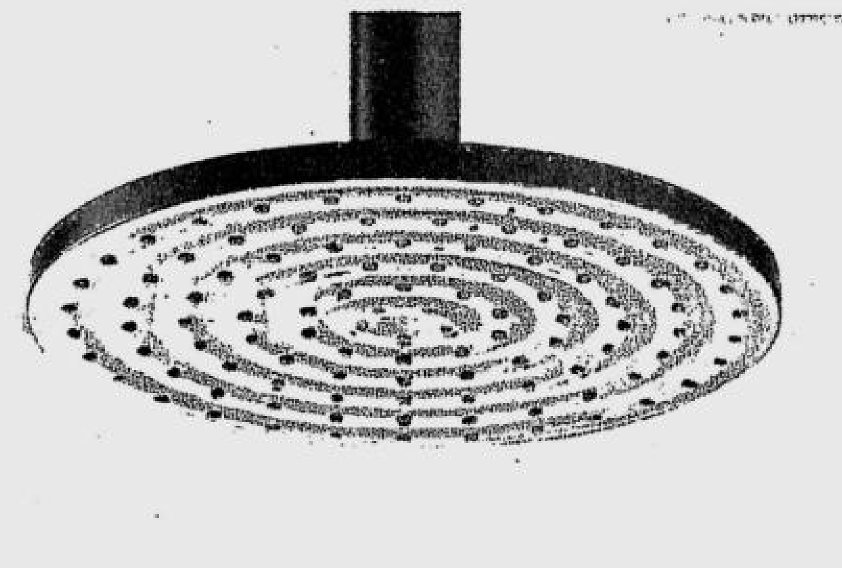
Spray painted cat with beaded sunglasses Bag from Proud Mary for Firma

"Yes'm, old friends is always best, 'less you can catch a new one that's fit to make an old one out of"—Sarah Orne Jewett

Pull off mixing old and new in faded Stretch Jeans in beaded green lace detail and frayed edges, Xoxo from U Rustan's: P 2,450

"When the character of a man is not clear to you, look at his friends." —Japanese Proverb

Put in a good word for your friend in this hot Beaded Flamingo pink and orange striped tube (with matching skirt too), U Rustan's: P1,650


Are you liquid enough?

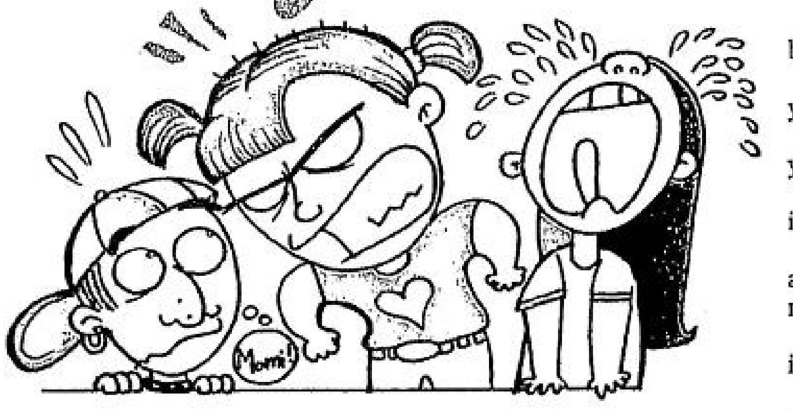
You can afford to enjoy the soft spray of natural rain anytime with Hansgrohe overhead showers. They're designed with self-cleaning functions for continuous water flow and various therapeutic spray modes so you can pamper yourself and bathe under a gentle summer rain, all year round.
Kuyson Bath Gallery: Home Buddies Section, Level 4, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. Tel Nos. 729-5530/720-3505.

KUYSEN BATH GALLERY

How to spot a *friend* for keeps

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

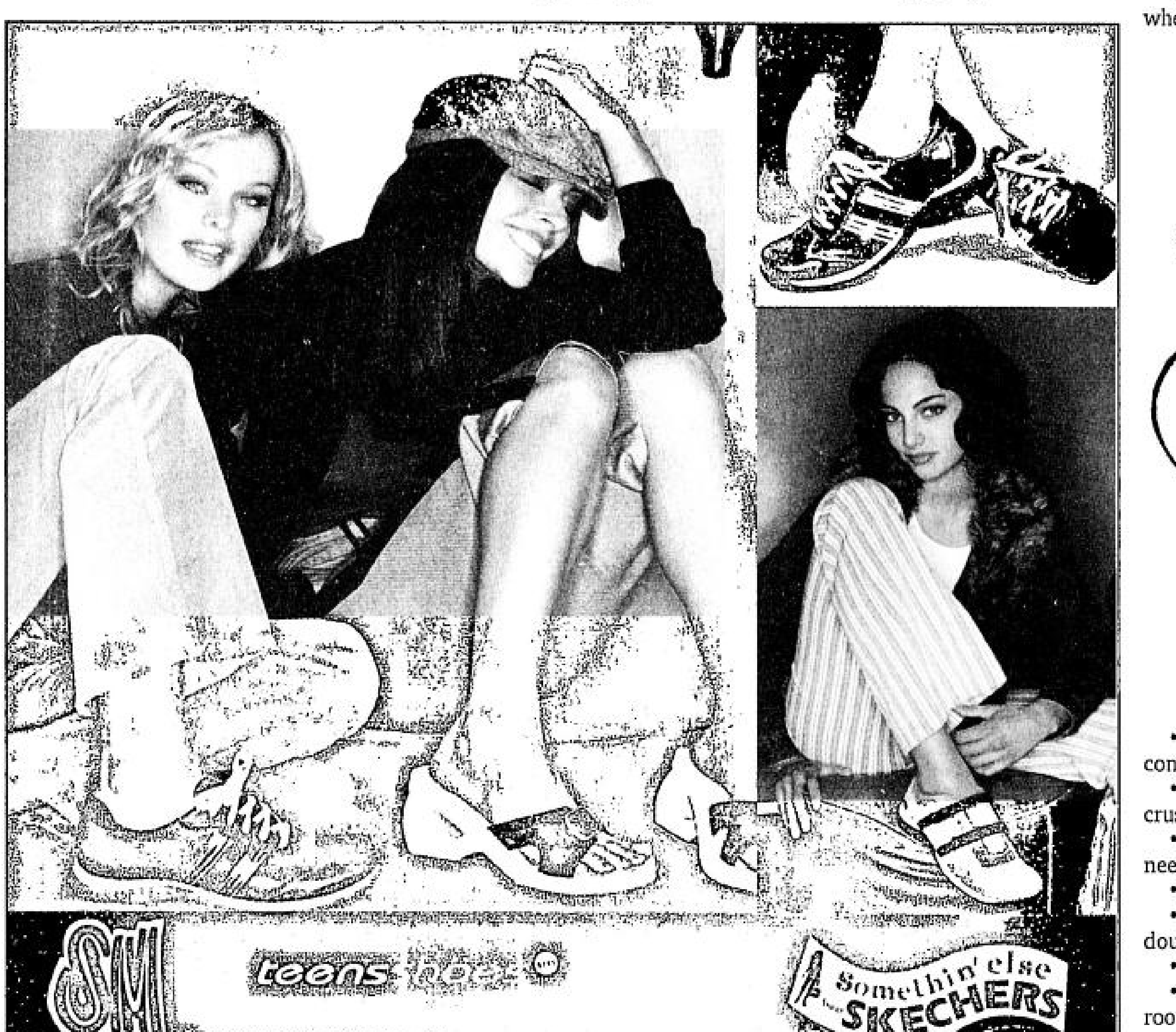
- SHE doesn't get mad if you accidentally ruin something you borrowed from her.
- She doesn't feel ashamed to applaud ahead of others for support during your performances.
- She lets you consume the last piece of the food you share.
- She helps you pester other classmates for paper when you don't have any during quizzes.



- She lends you money when you really broke.
- She never forgets important occasions in your life, especially your birthday.
- She lets you inside her room and lends you even her intimate stuff.
- She walks you home if you're sick or even if it's dangerous.
- She can fart in your face without feeling ashamed. If you fart, she doesn't cover her nose.
- She can clean up your barfing mess during intoxicated moments.
- She helps you clean up your stained skirt when in a public place.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

- She makes it a point to extend to you her condolences.
- She helps in linking you up with your crush.
- She covers up for you when you really need it.
- She can drink from your straw.
- She always gives you the benefit of the doubt.
- She feeds your fancy.
- She waits for you when you go to the restroom.
- She never puts you on the spot.
- She never laughs at your expense.
- She looks fiercely at someone rude who just made you cry.
- She pats you for comfort when you're down, no matter how awkward it is for either of you.
- She doesn't feel ashamed of you even if you're looking weird and you're malling together.
- She's gentle with words even if what she's telling you is hurtful.
- She is dear to your dog no matter how *askal* it is, or at least she tries to.
- She never leaves you group-less during group formations in class.
- She fans hard enough for the two of you when the weather is terribly hot and humid.
- She trusts you enough to let you in on her not-so-good secrets.


SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!
teens
Somethin' else SKECHERS
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN

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8am to 5pm. July 19, 2003 [Registration starts at 7am]
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MECHANICS: [1] Please secure an application form through any of the following: (a) visit the website at www.inquirerseminarseries.com, or; (b) send your email address through text at 0917-5269887, or; (c) send your email address to mediamorphosis2003@yahoo.com, or; (d) brochures from PDI Classified Ads office at 5th Floor, SM Megamall Bldg B, Mandaluyong City or from participating schools. [2] Submit your application form through any of the means specified in the instructions. [3] Pay the registration fee: 200 as an early bird discount if paid ON or BEFORE July 4, 2003, and 250 if paid ON July 19, 2003. This applies for applicants in the Metro Manila Area Only. Details of HOW, WHERE, and WHEN applicants may pay the registration fee will follow upon receipt of the application form. [4] FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE METRO MANILA AREA, the registration fee will still be 200 to be paid on July 19, 2003 provided that the application form is submitted ON OR BEFORE July 4, 2003.